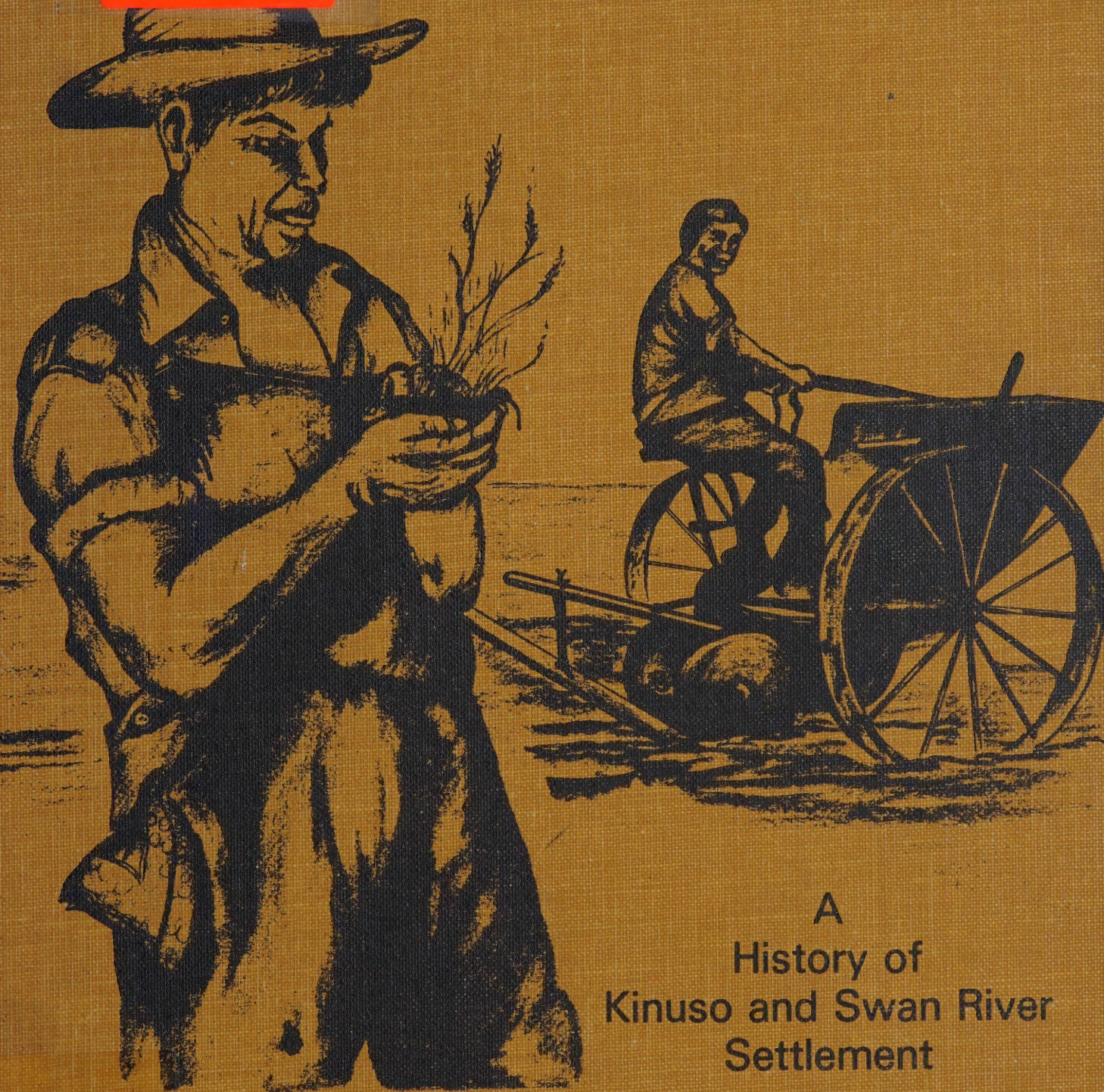


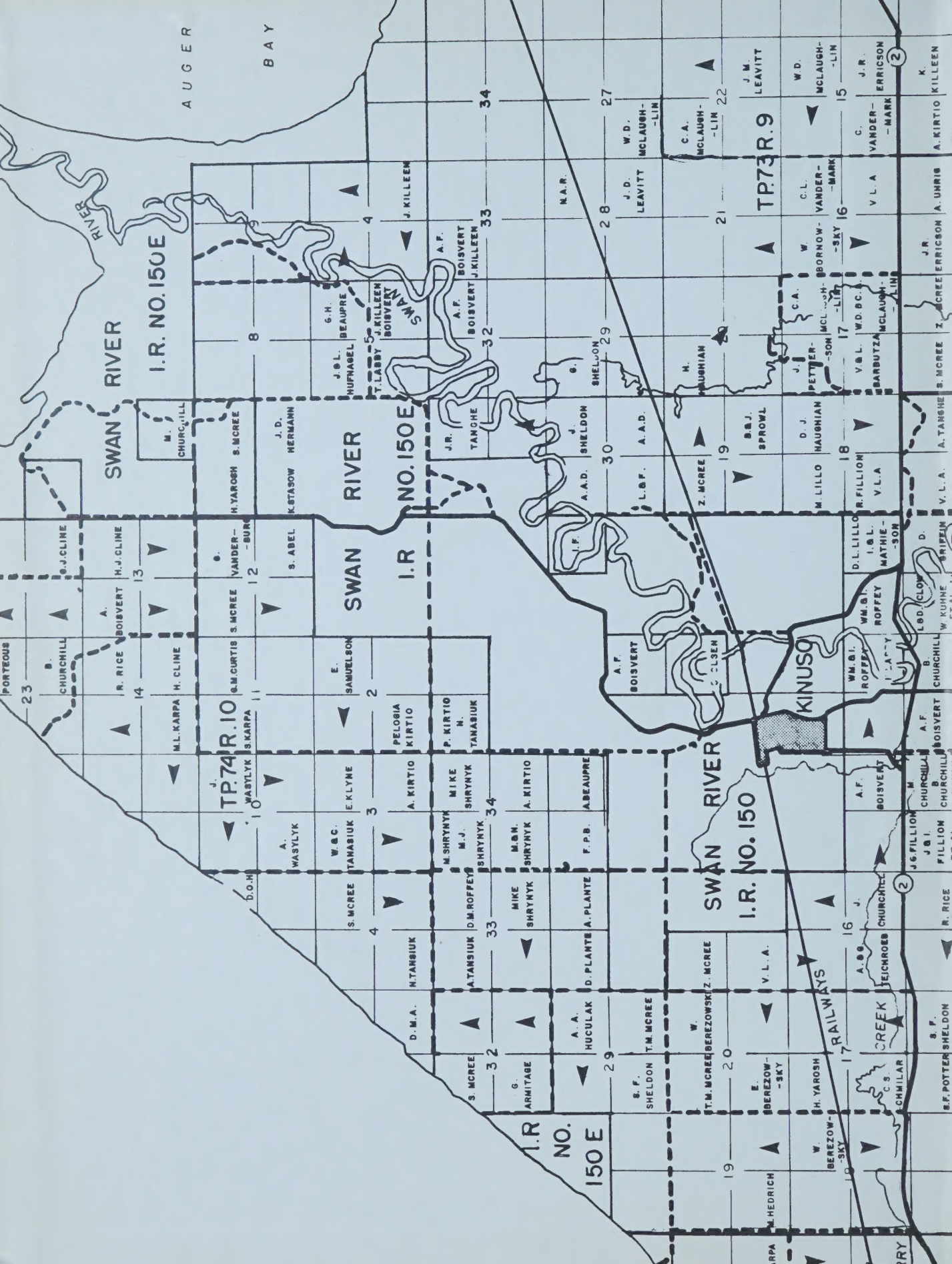


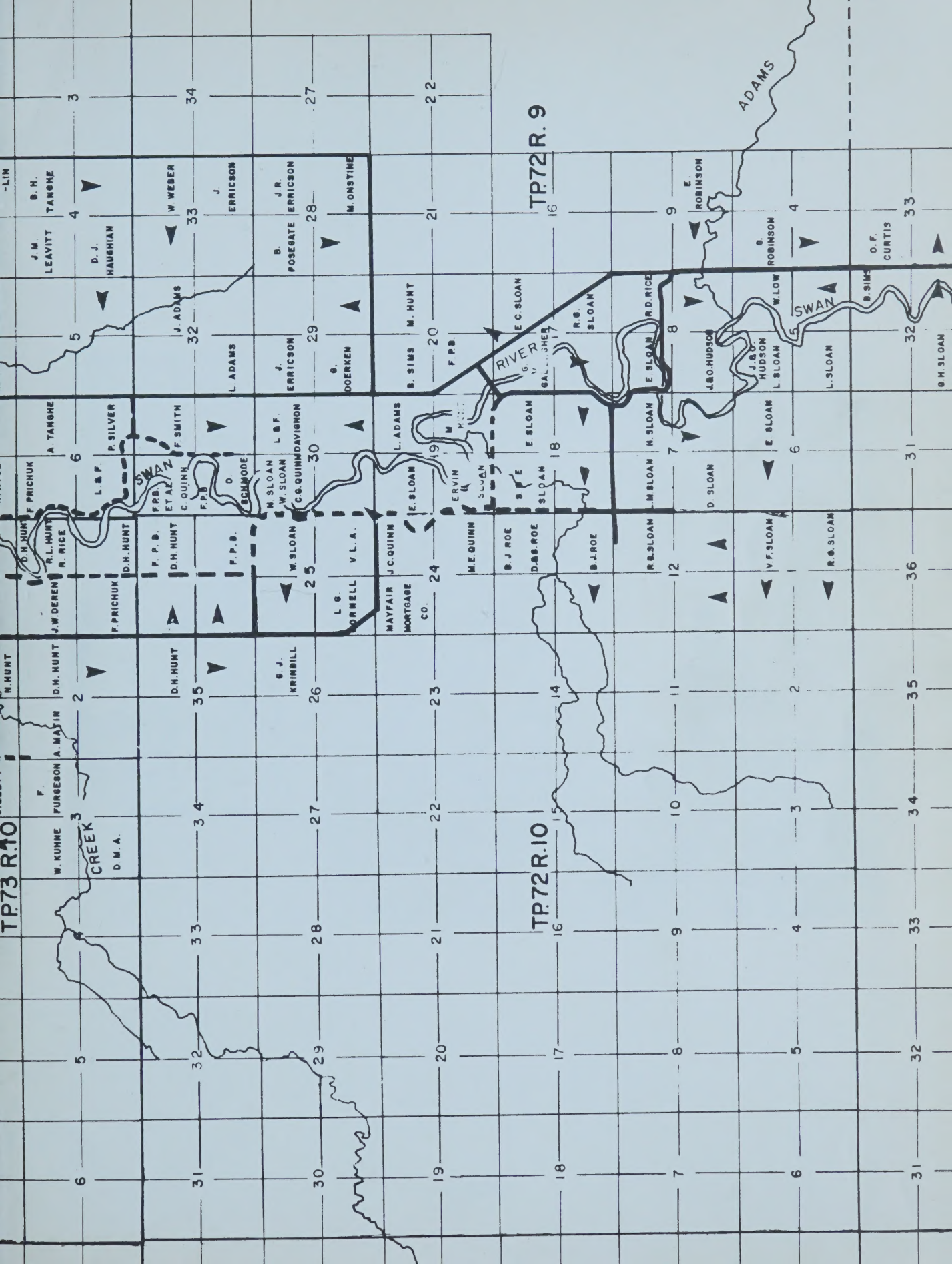
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SODBUSTERS



A
History of
Kinuso and Swan River
Settlement







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M.L.A. — Larry Shaben.

August 14, 1979

The People of Kinuso
c/o P.O. Box 292
Kinuso, Alberta
T0G 1K0

Dear Friends:

I am honoured to be asked to participate in your ambitious undertaking. To prepare a history of the Kinuso and the Swan River Valley region is a most important contribution to the exciting heritage of our wonderful province and is particularly significant since 1980 is the 75th Anniversary of Alberta.

It is not at all surprising that many early Albertans settled in the beautiful Swan River Valley. It is a thrill to view the delta along Lesser Slave Lake with the spruce, pine and poplar, and the swift running rivers. The rich soil, so suitable to the growth of the healthy livestock industry, must have been a welcome sight to the early pioneers who struggled into the North.

In today's era of modern conveniences and plenty, it is only proper that we reflect upon the hardships endured by the pioneers in building this land of ours. To the writers and the contributors to this volume, I extend congratulations for recognizing the outstanding achievements of those who helped pave the way for a better life for future generations.

Yours sincerely,

Larry R. Shaben
Minister

M.L.A. — Lesser Slave Lake

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Preface

The seeds from which this book grew were planted at a birthday party at Jean and Ed Quinn's in honor of Jean's father George Moore. This celebration was June 27, 1955 and the guests included Ben Boisvert, George Cornell, Harry Walker, Harry Hunt, Jesse Sloan, and Windsor Rice. Many pioneer tales were retold, and it was at that time, that the idea of writing the history of the Swan River settlement was begun. It was agreed that Jean Quinn would compile the events and she began immediately recalling some facts from memory, and much of the variety of her sources of material came from the treasure house of stories from friends of her father and mother. Over a period of 24 years a collection of reminiscences, diaries, clippings, letters and photographs, all dealing with events of the past, have been recorded.

Jean herself, has kept a diary, also some material has been recorded from her mother's diary, Mrs. George Moore.

A banquet was held July 21, 1967 in honor of settlers in this community. The banquet was sponsored by local organizations. A keen interest by everyone present was aroused to continue with the writings of our heritage.

Vera McLaughlin, also greatly interested in strengthening the history of this area, began collecting contributions from senior citizens and their families.

On July 25, 1978 a meeting was held at the home of Craig McLaughlin, and a committee was formed to proceed with compiling all data and undertaking the project of producing a history book of the Swan River settlement. The citizens co-operated by relating personal recollections and lending of precious records.

The New Horizons and Alberta Culture assisted in funding to carry on research. Through the great efforts of the officers, researchers and proof readers our book has blossomed.

There is an increased eagerness to know about our heritage, and so to the people responsible for this book, "Thank you."

Editor — Jean Quinn

Co-editor — Vera McLaughlin

Photo editor — Evelyn Robinson

Editors of Native material — Cheryl Sheldon,
Ruby Sound

Researchers

Alyce Posegate

Ruth Sloan

Doreen Hunt

Proof readers

Julia Hunt

Doreen Hunt

Typists

Nellie Montpelier

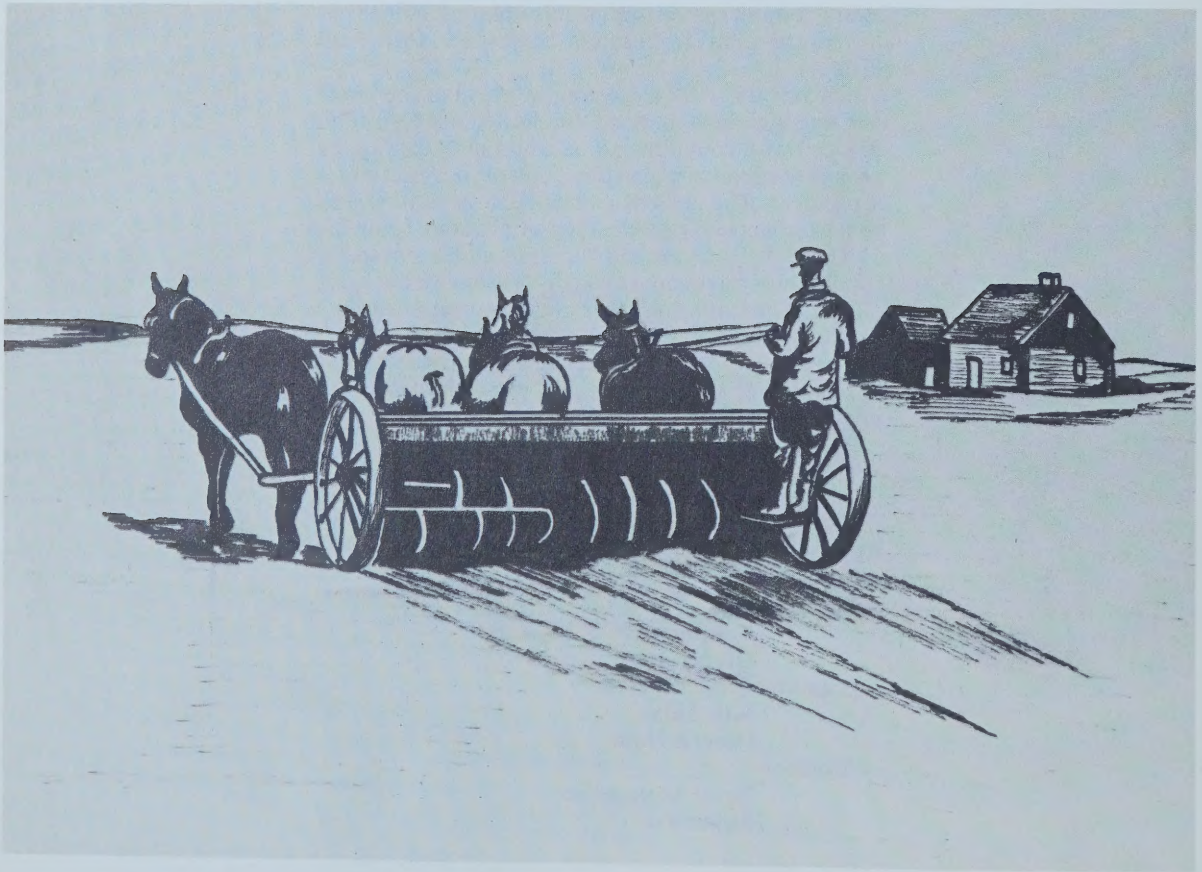
Ruth Sloan.

Dedication

The contents of this book depicts the unfolding of the colorful past in the development of the Swan River settlement. It reveals the hardships, courage and determination, blended with happiness and bonded friendships, resulting in the fulfillment of a rich and meaningful life.

This book is dedicated to the early enterprising pioneers and their families. Through their untiring efforts, united with community spirit and co-operation, they battled the elements with a minimum of essentials. It is through this basic contribution of the pioneers, that we the generation of today, owe our sincere gratitude.

We would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to the many people who have recorded and preserved our past, honoring our forefathers and pioneers.



The Old Log House

On a little green knoll
At the edge of the wood
My Great, Great, Grandmother's
First house stood.

The house was of logs
My Grandmother said
With one big room
And a lean-to-shed.

The logs were cut
And the house was raised
By pioneer men
In the olden days.

I like to hear
My Grandmother tell
How they built the fireplace
And dug the well.

They split the shingles
They filled each chink
It's a house of which
I like to think.

Forever and ever
I wish I could
Live in a house
At the edge of the wood.

By James S. Tippet.





History Book Committee.

Left to right, Top: Alyce Posegate, Doreen Hunt, Jean Quinn,
Evelyn Robinson, Vera McLaughlin, Ruth Sloan, Ruby Sowan.

Left to right, Bottom: Leila Brown, Doris Shantz, Cheryl Sheldon.

Acknowledgments

Senior Citizens

New Horizons

Alberta Culture

Dennis Wall

Idelle Jenkins — Alberta Vocational School in
Grouard.

Dave Stevenson for art work, poetry and designing
the cover.

Steve Prichuk for helping with research.

Jean Sheldon for helping with typing of histories
Archives in Edmonton

Nellie Monpellier for typing.

Appreciation

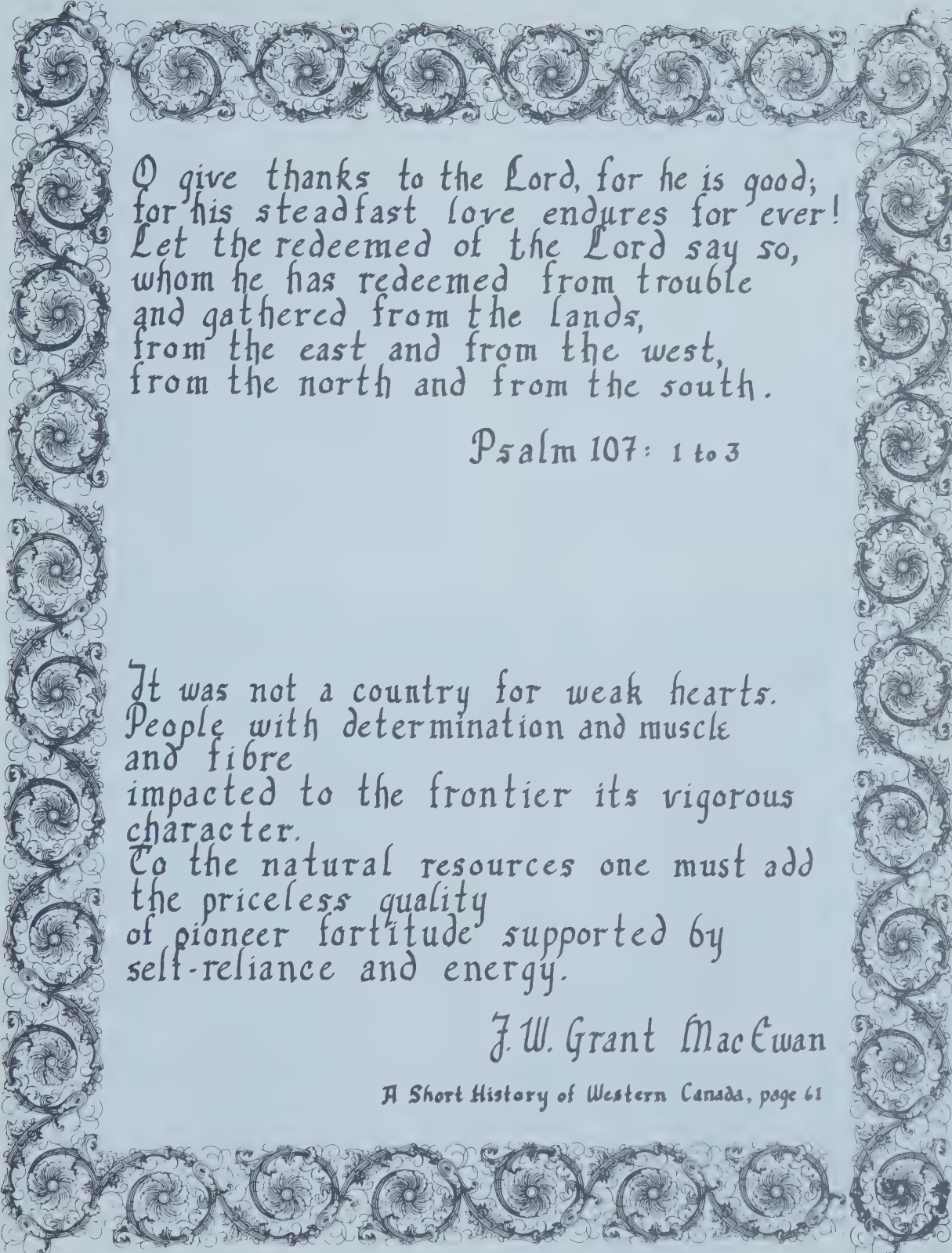
To all the proof readers.

To those who have written special articles and lent
pictures.

To those who took time to write histories of their
families and friends, and to all those who typed their
own material.

We apologize for any inaccuracies, factual errors,
or omissions in our book.

The Book Committee:



O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;
for his steadfast love endures for ever!
Let the redeemed of the Lord say so,
whom he has redeemed from trouble
and gathered from the lands,
from the east and from the west,
from the north and from the south.

Psalm 107: 1 to 3

It was not a country for weak hearts.
People with determination and muscle
and fibre
impacted to the frontier its vigorous
character.
To the natural resources one must add
the priceless quality
of pioneer fortitude supported by
self-reliance and energy.

J. W. Grant MacEwan

A Short History of Western Canada, page 61

Chapter One

Early History

Swan River Settlement

This is a story of the growth of what started as a small settlement along a river which flowed through the Valley and into Lesser Slave Lake. This river is extremely crooked and I understand that in the early days many swans were known to nest in the vicinity.

It was originally known as Wapisew Sepi in Cree, meaning Swan River, therefore it became known as the Swan River.

It is along narrow Valley with Lesser Slave Lake on the north and the Slave Lake Forest Reserve on the south, beginning on the south edge of the north row of sections — namely sections 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, and 36, in townships 71 Range 9 W5 Mer. The lake on the north takes in the northern half of township 74, R9 and 10 west of the 5th Meridian. The Valley broadens from about two miles at the south end to approx-



The beautiful Swan River. It was up this river, August 17, 1907 that two parties landed in Swan Valley; J.C. Hunt and wife, sons Harry and Wilfred, daughters Eva and Ethel, Mr. Maloney, Finny Hill, Manuel Grono, Bill Keay.

imately twelve miles about half way to the lake. It is very fertile land and good crops are raised, mainly wheat, oats and barley, with a few acres of rape.

The Swan Hills are on either side and in the south, it is really a beautiful valley especially in the spring then again in the fall when everything is in its autumn colors.

“Kinuso” In a Nut Shell

Kinuso is the village and the centre of the Swan River Valley which was first settled by such people as J. C. Hunt, George Cupps, Jess Sloan, F. W. Hill, Emanuel Grono, Harry Branff, Harry Depew, and others who drove in by way of Athabasca with teams of horses and oxen bringing their possessions with them. Fifty-three years ago at the time of their coming, there were no white settlers here. There had been one white man here who built the old Dykman house which was later occupied by James Onstine.

Originally the town was called Swan River. But due to postal reasons it was changed to Kinuso, which is of Cree origin meaning fish.

There were a number of Indians of which the families of Giroux, Courteille, Sawan, and Chalifoux are still here. Old Absteenus, the chief of the early days, has passed on and the present chief is a member of the same family.

More recent settlers who settled before the railway came in the fall of 1914 were: Jack Adams, A. Foley, Joe Stone, E. Fraser, Sam Sloan, Chas. Sloan, E. Sloan, and their mother Martha Sloan, Martin Gallagher, J. L. Harrison, F. Stuck, James Onstine, O. Riggs, W. L. McKillop, George Moore, W. V. Rice, George Cornell, John Swanson, T. H. Sloan, James Grono, W. Ashley, James McNeil, James Adams, Frank Clarke, Thomas Booth, Art Johns, Paul Boothman, Pete Thomson, Bob Cormier, H. W. Walker, Percy Freeze, Don Pierce, R. H. Beagles, Jack Miscow, Matt Whitecotton. Most of these people have passed on to the great beyond, a few others have left, but still keep in touch with friends here, and a few are still here.

Kinuso in the early days was noted for its strong support of sports, particularly baseball. Some of the men who played regularly were: Harry Walker, Percy Freeze, Ben Boisvert, H. Depew, W. V. Rice, Roy Sloan, Ernest Sloan, and Harry Hunt, Visiting teams who played here were Slave Lake, Canyon Creek, and High Prairie. They came by train or boat.

The railroad came in 1914, the wagon bridge across the Swan in 1917, U.F.A. Hall in 1919-20. The Royal Bank had a branch here in 1921 which burned down. Boisvert's Billard Hall was started 1915. Bob Cormier built the Post Office, E. Vanderaegen built a store, Matt Whitecotton moved his restaurant from the railroad, where it had been built in 1914 to where the present hotel now stands. In 1919 D. R. Pierce and W. V. Rive moved their store from the north side of the railroad to the townsite.

In 1918, the flue epidemic took approximately half the Indian population.

The Kinuso Chamber of Commerce was formed as a Board of Trade in July 1924. The President was the late H. W. Walker. Sec. was W. L. McKillop now in St. Albans. Some of the charter members were B. E. Boisvert, A. K. McDonald, etc. Some of the early projects that the Chamber of Commerce worked on were: The Nurses Home, and the Peace River highway which was finally opened in 1928. Projects later worked on were: sports ground, No. 2 Highway, additional land for the townsite, local roads, location and improvement of present beach, herd law, incorporation of the Village, bridge over the Athabasca at Smith, control of the lake level, and the last big project was the village water supply.

The Cree

submitted by Cheryl Sheldon and Ruby Sound

The historical review of the Cree would require more than the contents of this book, therefore this is just a brief introduction to their origin, culture and the white influence.

The word Cree comes from the French “Kristineaux,” a form of the word “Kenistenoag” — one of their own names whose meaning is unknown.

The Cree live in five central provinces; Quebec, Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta. They unfold from west to east from Chief Small Boy's camp in the foothills of the Rocky Mountains to the reserves of Waswanipi, Eastmain, Misstassini, Nemiska and Old Factory in Quebec. From south to north they reside at the Rocky Boy Reservation in Montana, U.S.A. to the Fort Vermilion Agency in Northern Alberta.

The original location of this Algonquian tribe is believed to be in Manitoba and Saskatchewan between the Saskatchewan and Red River. Yet, in the seventeenth century they were found in the James Bay region. Eventually they occupied land from Ontario to the Rockies due to northern and western migration caused by disease and scarcity of food. The Jusuit Relations of 1658 mentions a division of the Cree into four nations: Alimibegouek, Kilistinons of the bay of Ataouabouscatouek, Kilistinons of the Nipisiriniens and Nisibourounik. The migration ended up splitting the Cree into what we now call Plains Cree and the Woodland Cree.

The Woodland Cree considered as the Quebec Cree, were also called the “Swampy Cree” or Muskegon. The Cree are closely related to the Chipewewa and are sometimes considered an offshoot of them and the Muskegon as another division of the same ethnic group.

In 1776 the population of the Cree was estimated at about 15,000. In 1786 they were reduced to less than half their number by smallpox. This occurred again in 1838.

The main occupation of the Woodland Cree has been hunting and trapping. The men played an important role in hunting, butchering and transporting large game. The women set traps, hunted small game, prepared pelts as well as taking care of the fam-

ily and other common tasks of making clothing, footwear and household chores.

Wild fruit, game and fish provided a subsistence to the Indian. The main foods were: moose meat, fish, meat of small fur bearing animals such as rabbit, beaver and muskrat. Fowl such as ducks, geese and grouse were also available according to the season.

The moose is probably the most notable contributor of all game. Its flesh was used for eating, making pemmican and dry meat. The fat was liquified through a process of slow cooking. When cooled it hardened and was used as we use lard. The remainder of this fat was kept and used for soups or snacks. The skin was used for clothing and footwear. Tools were made from the bones and threads from the sinew. They also used the moose hair for roaches or head-dresses worn by the Cree. The array of color was obtained from wild berries. Porcupine quills were also used.

Camps were set up where game was sufficient. Their homes were wigwams or tepee constructed with poles and birchbark or skins. This conical frame was easily assembled, weighed very little and was very practical for their nomadic life. They used birch bark canoes for transportation. Toboggans and snowshoes were used in the winter. These and all other personal possessions, utensils and hunting implements such as the bow and arrow, sling, lance, harpoon and snares were made from the remains of animals or other natural materials which they utilized in as many ways as possible.

Their utensils consisted of pots of stone, wooden bowls and spoons, birch bark baskets and bags of animal skin for storage.



The clothing of the Cree was made from rabbit, caribou, buffalo and moose skins. The usual garments were mocassins, leggings, hooded tunic and detachable sleeves. The women wore hooded tunics which fell below the knee. The men wore similar tunics which came down to thighs or a breech cloth. During the winter thick fur robes were worn. Most of their clothing was tailored. The women cut the piece of skin according to shape and size of wearer and then

sewed the pieces together with a needle of bone and sinew thread.



Because the Cree moved constantly they did not have much in the way of furniture. The floor of the wigwam was the bare earth which was kept dry by a covering of spruce boughs overlaid with mats and skins. The fireplace was in the centre of the wigwam with the smoke escaping through the hole in the roof where the poles intersected.

Religion was not as it is today, although many still practise their cultural religion. The Cree believed there was a po-wah-gen in every animal and tree and that waterfalls, great cliffs and hot springs had spirits who lived in them. Another name for spirit is Manitou. Some of their spirits were good and some were bad. If an individual was troubled by an evil spirit, he might get rid of it by offerings or he sought help from a medicine man. Sometimes the evil spirits were too invincible and people died. There were individuals who transmitted the spirits and there were those who removed the spirits.

The Witigo is another spirit which the Cree firmly believed in. The — vampire. A shamen dealt with the supernatural and performed in religious affairs. There were many taboos and semi-magic rites to satisfy the spirits of the game. Every hunter carried a medicine bag with him. Some also had their own supernatural powers which were received either through a dream or transferred from a deceased relative.

Their drugs were herbs and plants which were obtained from the forest. Sometimes these were more powerful than the medicine man's songs. Another thing that was used often was the "sweat lodge" which is still used today by many native tribes. It's a little hut, big enough for one man, which was made as air tight as possible with coverings of bark or blankets. Hot stones were rolled into the hut and water sprinkled on them to produce dense clouds of steam. The individual would then sit in the steamy hut. The effect was much like the sauna we have today. The Indians believed that this purified the body and was good for many sicknesses. There is no doubt that it was useful in many cases.

Marriage was a key factor in Cree life as it marked the beginning of adult life. Marriages were usually arranged by the parents or relatives. In some areas the boy or girl could refuse to marry the partner chosen for them. Inter-marriages were practiced and often

marriages occurred between families close in hunting territories. Some polygamy entered into Cree life. Normally newly married couples lived near the boy's parents except for a winter spent with his father-in-law.

The husband was the authority but the wife was allowed to give advice. Girls and younger boys helped the mother while the older boys aided the father. Parents and older children were teachers of the young. Girls were taught to cook and prepare game. Both boys and girls gathered wood, checked snares and hunted ptarmigan. About the age of ten, boys would go with their father on short hunting trips. Children attained adolescence through a gradual process. Boys through a "first kill rite" and girls through a "puberty rite".

Feasts were a regular part of the year as they were both social and religious events. They were held before hunting began, when a bear was killed or during the spring when many fowl were killed. Music and dancing accompanied most Indian ceremonies with the people singing to the rhythm of rattles and drums. Most Indians had a simple dance pattern. Guessing games were very popular with the Indians. The hand game, which is still popular, one or more players hold marked objects in their hands. The players on the other team try to guess where a certain object is. The hiding side sing or chant loudly to confuse the guessers. Both sides bet on the results.



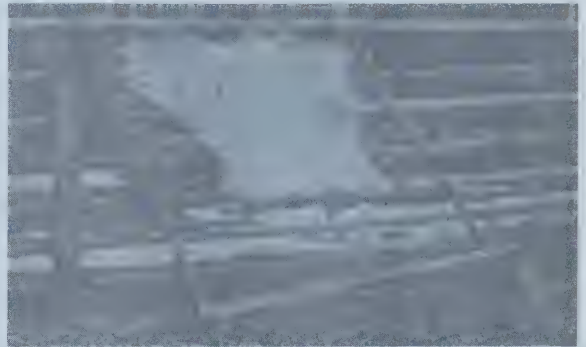
Before 1600 there was no outside European contact for the Cree. The first white man to reach the Mistassini Cree region was Afbanel in 1671. In later explorations the Cree served as guides for the English. Also, at this time the Cree were trading furs in Montreal with the French through what was known as middlemen. In 1670 the Hudson Bay Company influenced the Cree and sought trade from them. Now they had a choice between trading with the French or the English. The Woodland Cree soon became middlemen with the Plains Indians in trading with the Hudson Bay.

Another important European influence was the missionary. Already in 1635 the Jesuits had replaced the Recollets and set up a mission in Tadoussac. They were at Lake St. John in 1647 and moved as far as Necouba after 1661. Efforts were made to convert the Cree during this time but this declined by the 1880's. Despite the efforts of the Jesuits, most of the Cree today are affiliated with the Anglican Church.

The yearly cycle of the Cree has probably not changed a great deal in the last century. Many Indians still rely on trapping, hunting and fishing to make a living. However, farming and cattle ranching has become important activities as well more and more Indians are entering Forestry, Industry and Mining.

Today the children of the hunting Cree have two lives to live. Their home is oriented to hunting, trapping and fishing while they go to school in a white urban center. It is hard for them to continue the two and it has caused many problems for them. This is heightened by the fact that many attend boarding schools.

Tanning A Moose Hide



The skin is stretched out on a SA-PE-TA-GUN, a square frame made of tree logs. It is tied with leather thongs.



Starting from the top, the flesh and the fat are scraped off with a bone chisel called a ME-KE-KWUN.



The skin is then turned over and the hair is removed with a MA-TAI-KUN, being careful not to puncture the hide.



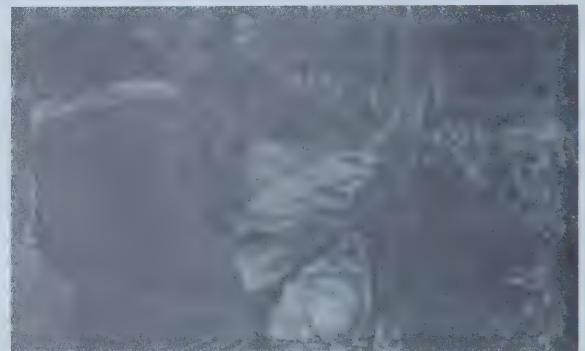
The hide is taken down, and animal brains or grease are spread over it. Soap is then spread over this.



To make sure all the water is removed, the hide is wrapped around a log and, with a twisting motion, is wrung dry. It is then pulled and scraped until it is completely smooth.



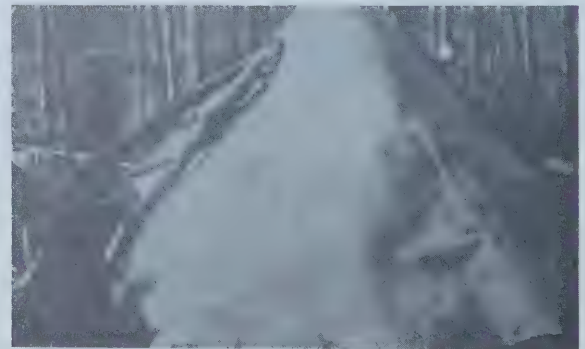
It is folded, weighed down, left to sit for a day or more, and then soaked and rinsed in a tub of clear lukewarm water.



Holding both ends; the hide is dried over a small fire. Drying protects it from flies and bugs. The hide is then placed over a rack and smoked until it turns slightly brown.



A metal frame called ME-SE-PU-TSE-KUN made of a rim of a tub or barrel, is folded in half and tied loosely onto a tree or post forming a sharp semi-circular edge. It does not cut into the hide, but instead squeezes out the water.



The final stage of smoking assures the exact colour desired. This is achieved by building a fire in a two-foot hole and draping the hide over it.

From the time of the Treaty (1899) up until 1936, the five groups around Lesser Slave Lake were treated as one single band known as "Kinosayo's Band." The Driftpile, Sucker Creek, Sawridge and Swan River settlements also chose one headman each.

Andrew Willier (Kinosayo) was the first chief, from 1899 to the time of his death in 1918. Felix

Willier (Astatchikun) took over as chief from 1918 to 1936 for Kinosayo's Band.

The people living along Swan River (Wab-so-see-pee), Wahpah and Assineau River chose Felix Giroux (Ups-chi-ne-se) as their headman. He was a headman for Kinosayo's Band from 1899 to 1927. Other headmen were:

Edward Nesootasis (Twin)	1927-1928
August Chalifoux	1928-1935
August Sound	1935-1936



Edward Twin

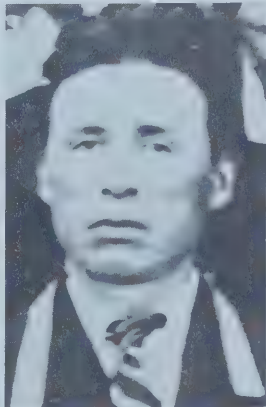
The Department of Indian Affairs decided to recognize the four major groups as separate bands. In 1936, the four groups elected each a chief and council to replace the single council of Kinosayo's Band.

The first chief for the Swan River Band was August Sound. Other chiefs that followed are:

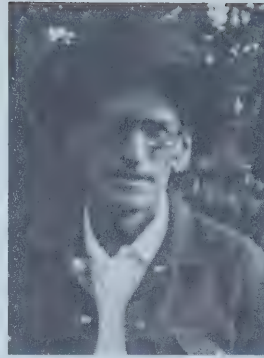
Gene Giroux (Davis)
August Chalifoux
Victor Twin
Paul Sound
Gordon Courtorielle
Charlie Chalifoux (present)



August Chalifoux



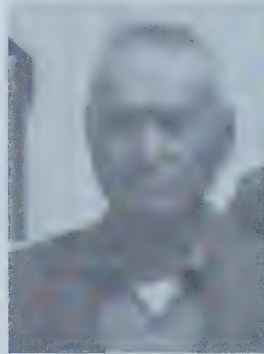
August Sound



Gene Davis



Victor Twin



Paul Sowan



Gordon Courtorielle



Charlie Chalifoux

When the railroad came in 1913, the Bands were not warned by the company of the coming of the railroad. It began building tracks across the reserve without the permission from either Department of Indian Affairs or the Bands. After a warning by the Indian Agent, the railway company applied to Ottawa asking to be given the right of way free of charge, but the Department of Indian Affairs refused. In May, 1914, the agent met with the Band and the Indians were willing to take payment for the railway line on the reserve. After some negotiation with the company, Department of Indian Affairs accepted the valuation and payment for the railway line and station grounds in 1915.

In July of 1914, the railroad applied for extra land for a townsite. On January 28, 1916 the Band met to vote for the surrender of the Kinuso townsite. The company did not actually buy the townsite until three

years later. In January, 1919 and March 1919 payments were sent for the townsite.

In 1932, the company again applied for land on the reserve, to be used as a water tank site and for access to a new bridge. The company was granted land and payment was received in 1933.

In June 1953, the surrender of land adjoining the Kinuso townsite was voted on by the Band members. Parcel 1, 2, 3, 4, 7, and parts of 9 were sold to various people between 1954 to 1962.

The Swan River Band is one of eleven Indian Bands comprising the Lesser Slave Lake Indian Regional Council. Since 1965, the Regional Council has been in control of the education program.



The official signing ceremony of the take over of the High Prairie District Office by the Lesser Slave Lake Indian Regional Council, August 13th, 1979.

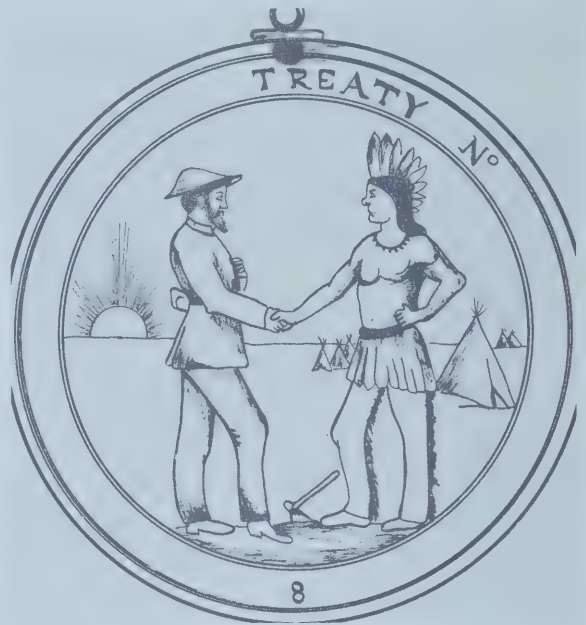


Traditional Tea Dance by the guests and visitors at the Signing ceremony.

Treaty

In 1899, a commission was issued to form a Treaty with the Indians of the Provisional District of Athabasca and the adjacent territory. On June 21, 1899, Treaty Commissioners David Liard, James McKenna, James Ross met with the Chief and Head-

men of the Lesser Slave Lake. They negotiated and signed the treaty known as Treaty Eight. The Treaty Commissions then travelled throughout the area covered by treaty and obtained signatures of any chiefs and headmen who were absent at the negotiations.



The terms of the Treaty were that the Indians give up claim to their land and accept the law of the government. In return for giving up the land, the Indians would have reserves set aside and would receive help from the government such as: health, education and establishing themselves in farming.

It was promised that supplies of medicine would be put in charge of persons, selected by the government

at different points, and would be distributed free to those who needed them.

As to education, it was the policy of the government to provide for the education of the Indian children and also provide for non-interference with the religious training of the Indians in schools maintained or assisted by the government.

The Treaty also promised to give annually \$25.00 for chiefs, \$15.00 for headmen and \$5.00 for every other Indian of whatever age.

The Treaty stipulated that assistance in the form of seeds, implements and horses be given to Indians interested in farming. For such families who prefer to raise stock instead of farming, cattle and machines were given. For those who preferred to continue hunting and fishing, ammunition and twine for making nets would be given.

In addition to these, the Indians were promised that they would have the right to pursue their usual vocation of hunting, trapping and fishing.

After signing the Treaty the chief was given a silver medal and a present of \$32.00. Each headmen received \$22.00 and to each family represented at that time, \$12.00 were given.

Since the Treaty was signed, the hunting and fishing rights has been curtailed by the government. Also the government is trying to do away with the other rights and promises that were set out in the Treaty.

Among the men who signed the Treaty at Lesser Slave Lake were:

Chief: Andrew Willier (Kinosayo)

Headmen: Moostoos, Captain, Wee-chee-way-sis, Charles Nesootasis, and Felix Giroux (Ups-chi-ne-se).



GOVERNMENT OF THE PROVINCE OF ALBERTA
DEPARTMENT OF MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS

RECEIPT FOR TAXES A NO 110946

Received from *G.W. Moore*

of *Swan River Settlement*

the sum of *Five* DOLLARS

being amount due LOCAL IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT No. *732* for taxes for the year *1914* on the following lands:

NE - 24 - 72 - 0 - 5

DATED at EDMONTON this

26

day of

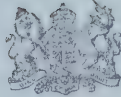
Oct

A.D. 19*14*

Geo. Perrie

DEPUTY MINISTER

DOMINION



LANDS.

INTERIM RECEIPT.

Agency No.

Agency,

191

I hereby Certify that I have received from George William Moore of Grinnard

the sum of TEN Dollars, being the fee for

Entry for N. E. Quarter of Section 24 Township 72

Range 10 West of 5th Meridian, subject to the right of the Province to take for road purposes, without compensation prior to issue of patent, such land as may be required not exceeding $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent of the total area (O. in C. 20th Nov. 1907), and that he is, in consequence of such entry and payment, vested with the rights conferred in such cases by the provisions of the Dominion Lands Act.

W. H. Linton
acty. Local Agent.

NOTICE: Minerals existing on or under the lands herein assigned, are reserved to His Majesty.

THE
NORTHERN ALBERTA
DAIRY POOL
IS A CO-OPERATIVE
DAIRY ORGANIZATION

EARNINGS OVER
OPERATING COSTS
ARE RETURNED
IN FINAL PAYMENTS
ANNUALLY

SEPARATE
AND
PROGRESS

SERIES AO 718231

DATE	LIB. CREAM	GRADE	TEST	LIB. B.F.	PRICE	AMOUNT
AUG 16 1947	41	Sp	37	128	-6	
VALUE						147
DEDUCTION FOR						11
NET AMOUNT						920

CREAM STATEMENT
NORTHERN ALBERTA DAIRY POOL LTD.
1031-1032 STREET
EDMONTON - ALBERTA

WHEN COUNTERSIGNED

BY
BURD IN
PAYMENT OF
MILK OR CREAM
WHICH IS OR
UNDER

PAY TO THE ORDER OF

THE SUM OF

COUNTERSIGNED

NORTHERN ALBERTA DAIRY POOL LIMITED

EDMONTON ALTA.

AUG 16 1947

EXPRESS MONEY ORDER

SERIES AO 718231

CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAY COMPANY

REGISTERED TO THE ORDER OF

N. ALBERTA DAIRY POOL LTD.

TAX PAID

NOT PAYABLE FOR MORE THAN TWENTY DOLLARS

THE SUM OF

NORTHERN ALBERTA DAIRY POOL LIMITED

EDMONTON ALTA.

AUG 16 1947

CHAS. D. LEWIS

NORTHERN ALBERTA DAIRY POOL LIMITED

EDMONTON ALTA.

AUG 16 1947

CHAS. D. LEWIS

NORTHERN ALBERTA DAIRY POOL LIMITED

EDMONTON ALTA.

AUG 16 1947

EDMONTON, DUNVEGAN AND BRITISH COLUMBIA RAILWAY COMPANY
 ALBERTA AND GREAT WATERWAYS RAILWAY COMPANY
 CENTRAL CANADA RAILWAY COMPANY

Edmonton ALTA. March 19th, 1919.

Mrs. M. Whitecotton,
 Kinuso P. O. Alta.

Dear Madam:-

Enclosed herewith Agreement of Sale
 for Lots purchased by you. Kindly sign same in
 the presence of a Witness, and return me the
 Original Agreement, the other copy you can retain
 for your own record.

Yours truly,

J. W. C. Arthur

HAC/M

Townsite Agent.

Signature of Registrant <i>Jessie Ruthland Moore</i>	CANADA REGISTRATION BOARD	
	This certificate must always be carried upon the person of the registrant	NUMBER <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;"> 223 502 15 </div>
	THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT <i>Jessie Ruthland Moore</i> residing at <i>Kinuso Alberta</i> was duly registered for the national purposes of Canada this <i>22nd</i> day of <i>June</i> 1918	
	<i>Geo. W. Moore</i> Deputy Registrar	

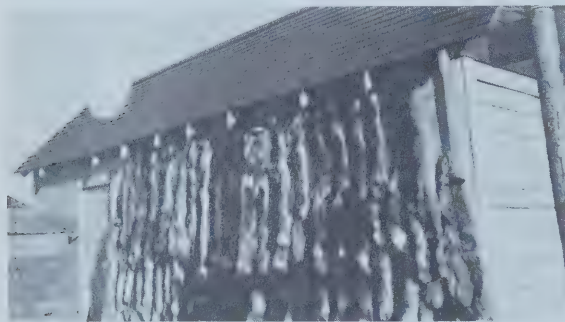


The Early Days of Fur Trapping

Submitted by: Louise Roe

There were no registered trap lines in the early days. In 1935 any trapper had to register for a trapline, it cost ten dollars a year, and if you had any improvements such as cabins etc., the Government would take the value of these improvements and credit them to you when you gave up your trapline. These costs were in turn charged to the new owner.

Fur was plentiful, red squirrels were taken by the millions over huge areas of the province.



Some of Ernest Roe's fur.

The season on most fur opened November 1st, and by Christmas time my husband and son would have well over 3000 red squirrels alone. Weasels were also plentiful, along with the red fox, red cross fox, black cross, silver, and silver cross fox. There were some lynx, lots of timber wolves, muskrats, and a few coyotes. There were no beaver in the country then, but there were a few wolverine, fisher, and martin. There was also skunk, but rabies killed them off and thinned out the porcupine.

The experts were always trying to control trapping, never realizing nature always controlled the fur. There were seven year cycles when fur was plentiful then there would be a shortage. In the fall of '29, and the early 30s, there were lots of rabbits, then Tularemia killed them off. I've seen rabbits so thick they ate around the base of haystacks until the stacks toppled over.

You had to be pretty rugged to be a trapper, but with faithful pack dogs and dog teams it was a lot

easier. The prices for fur were low, at one time squirrels were as low as two cents each. Then they went up to six and eight cents, and then 18 cents which was really high. When they got really scarce they went up to 1.50 each. Fox brought from 12 to 25 dollars, and a perfect silver cross brought 28 dollars. Weasels were from 5 to 10 cents for small ones, to 50 cents for large ones. A coyote was worth 5 dollars, and you could make more in bounty on timber wolves than the fur brought. The bounty was \$10.00 a hide.



Bernard Potskin with his fox pelts.



Curly Roe trapping at Chalmers Cabin.



Ernest and Curly Roe and pack dogs.

The trapper and his family lived on a homestead in a log house with a sod roof which was warm in winter and cool in the summer. They always had lots to eat as they grew gardens and there was an abundance of fish and wild game as well as lots of wild berries such as raspberries, blueberries, cranberries and strawberries. In the spring after trapping season was over, the fur was sold to travelling fur buyers or storekeepers who bought fur and the money was used to buy about 600 lbs. of flour, for about \$1.98 to \$2.98 a hundred, two hundred lbs. of sugar which was about \$8.00 a hundred, baking powder, and salt and what necessities they would need until trapping started up again in late fall. Ottoman tobacco, which the men smoked, was 45¢ for a half lb. tin. Nabob coffee was 50¢ for a one lb. tin and a four lb. tin of pure jam was 98¢. Cornflakes were 3 boxes for 25¢, baking soda 5¢ a box, corn starch 2 boxes for 25¢ and laundry soap was 5¢ a bar. For medicine we had Dodds kidney pills, Iodine, Sloans linament, vaseline, aspirins, zam buck salve and dry mustard for poultice. There were no prepared baby foods so babies ate solid food from the table as soon as they were ready for solids. They seemed to grow up strong and healthy. There was no welfare for the trappers' families as they were an independent breed.



Eddy and his father, Pat Courtorielle at Pat's cabin on his trap line.



John Adams, Mr. Bradford, Matt Whitecotton, Lower right — Mose Caribeu.



Arend Kool and a bear he killed.



Mac McGowan and Eva (Cline) McGowan after a duck hunt.



Hank Griffen shot the moose with the largest set of horns in early days.



Charlie Cline and Matt Whitecotton loading up to spend a week hunting at Eula Creek 1924.



Jean Olsen, Merle Olsen and Lilas Lillo.



Reubin Brown and Hercel Sloan trapping.



Steve DeCoste, Mrs. Wilson (house keeper), Stanley Lawrence. Steve started a muskrat farm on the McKillop place in 1926.



Cattle Killers — Wolves shot by Stan Olsen and George Sheldon on George's farm.



Charlie Magnus, first toboggan with handles he made himself.



1974. Caught big beaver in Swan River. Dave Griffen, Barry Boisvert, Chris and Tracy Griffen.



George Hunt with his catch.



Bear trap, brought in by George Sheldon from Al Oeming, (complete with bear).



Vera Boisvert and dog team.



Charlie Magnus' pack dogs on Deere Mountain.



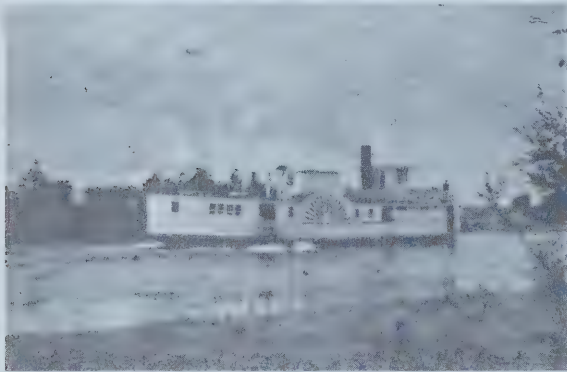
Hunter's cabin at Eula Creek.



Predator coyotes killed with cyanide guns on George Sheldon's farm, May 1957.

Opening Up Of The North

by C. J. Schurter



Northern Lights taken in 1911. The Hull sometimes can still be seen at the mouth of the Slave River at Slave Lake.

Sixty-eight years ago when telegraphic communications were establishing between Edmonton and Peace River Crossing, was the real start of northern settlement. Numerous survey parties were already making surveys of potential farm land all the way from Athabasca Landing to the Peace River and beyond.

A lot of earlier settlers came into the North via of the Edson Trail to the west; many came in over the Swan Hills via Home's Crossing, but the main route north was via of Athabasca Landing and Lesser Slave Lake which you could travel in summer by steamer from Athabasca to the west end of Slave lake, and better known today as "The Scenic Route" to the Peace River District.

In fact, in terms of today, it would have been called a vacation tour to take this trip from Athabasca to Grouard. You followed the Athabasca River to the mouth of the Slave River and with a 16 mile portage, you were again on a steamer all the way to the west end of the lake at Grouard.

All along the route there were already many land "squatters," settlers who picked certain lands for homesteading which was still not surveyed into sections and quarter sections. After the surveys were actually made, the so-called land squatters had the first right to file on their location when thrown open

for homesteading. Sometimes their shacks and small barns were right in the center of a road allowance which did not matter. They still had first claim on the quarter section of their choice whether it was north or south or east or west of their temporary buildings, mostly shacks.



Mr. Windsor Rice's oxen pulling a caboose used for freighting in the early days.

Travel North from Athabasca to Grouard was via Steam boats from early May to the middle of October. There was no travel over the wagon and pack trails over this route as most of the larger streams had no bridges and then there were times even the trails were impassable, depending on the weather. The Edmonton Athabasca trails were well kept up so was the Grouard-Peace River Trail, as these sections of the north, travel was used all the year round.



Hudson's Bay Co. Boat that plied the Lesser Slave Lake.



First bridge built at Sawridge in 1914. Centre lifted for the boats to go through, that plied Lesser Slave Lake to Grouard before the railroad came through.

Most of the travel north was in the winter time, travelling on the Athabasca River, Slave River and across the Lake to Grouard. Since there were no hills, freighters could haul heavy loads. All stopping places were only open in winter where you found a good stable for your horses, good bunk house and a huge kitchen where you cooked your own meal, as every good traveller then carried a grub box and Bed roll, etc., even a gun. As north travel increased so did the quality of the services. In many places the operators even served swell meals where you had to pay the huge price of 25¢ to 35¢ for a real swell meal. They even supplied reading matter in the bunk houses. And the latest press news from the nearest telegraph office on the route.

Your first important stop after leaving Athabasca was at Sawridge (Slave Lake) this then was considered a fairly modern settlement having a Northwest Mounted Police barracks, a telegraph office, two stores, including the Hudson Bay Co., two good stopping places, a restaurant and even a Catholic Church and in the following year a 10 room hotel. This (Modern) hotel had everything (except) modern plumbing, phones, radio and T.V., but it served the purpose okay. Sawridge then was always considered a rest stop as even the poor horses had to have rest also and often travellers would stop over two days.



A "tug" boat like one owned by Len Rumbley who came to Kinuso in 1917.

From Slave Lake to Grouard was all on the lake, ice conditions were usually safe by the end of December, your first stop was nine mile point (Wagner), then Assineau Point, then Swan River Point. You then crossed the lake at Big Point and your final stop

was just east of Shaw's Point, after which you were in Lesser Slave Lake Settlement (Grouard). All of these stops were very comfortable and the only hazard of lake travel was the odd blizzard and freighters but travellers always watched the weather and travelled in groups in case someone got into difficulty and help was required. Anyway people then travelled with utmost care.



C.J. Schurter. A spur line was built to the river at Mitsue. The logs were hauled out of the water and loaded on flat cars for Edmonton.



A tug-boat on Lesser Slave Lake. Len Rumbley drove these tugs and owned one — 1913.

Weather Conditions

by C. J. Schurter

1920 that was the winter of a record snowfall and by March 1, we had approximately seven feet of nice white snow.

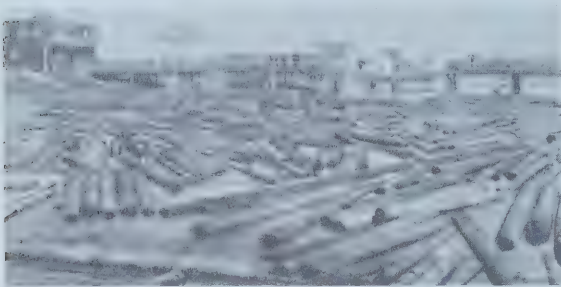
In many places there were snow drifts twenty feet high. The Northwest Lumber Company operated a lumber camp on the Lake's north shore between the present first campsite and Lily Creek. Their logs were all hauled out to the lake shore where they were stacked to be floated down the river in the spring break-up to their loading camp at Mitsue siding.

The snow got so deep in the later part of February that it became impossible to do any further logging and to get the logs out that were cut in December. Those logs had to stay there until late April and early May. Since the Lands and Forests Department saw to it that all the logs were gathered, they even found some more around the tenth of May.

Lumberjacks that winter had a tough time as they worked on a percentage basis (not daily wages) and to get their final pay, they had to wait until almost Victoria Day for their winter's pay.



Yes, that was a real Western Canada winter that you have so often read about in early history and the same tough lumberjacks were on the job again the next season. They never gave up.



1919-1920

In 1919-20, logs were towed from the north shore of Lesser Slave Lake over to the mouth of Slave River and floated down to Mitsue and loaded on flat cars and shipped to Edmonton. Len Rumbley at one time lived in Kinuso and owned a tug-boat.

Do you know in the old pioneer days when there was no settlement along the various Klondike Trails heading north from Athabasca Landing or over the Swan Hills or even the Edson route that travelling over these trails was not always a pleasant one in the nice dry fall seasons. All small creeks, even some so-called rivers, would be completely dried up and since travel then when the steamers were tied up for the season, was all by wagons, saddle and pack horse. So it was necessary to make your stops where there was water available both for your coffee and your horses. Since there were very few settlers living along these trails then, there also were no wells.

These conditions were quite common especially in the fall of 1909-1910 with fairly dry summers and no snow until almost December 21.

Even the Athabasca River got to the point when navigation had to stop by the end of September when ordinarily, the steamers would run well until the end of October.

When these conditions prevailed, the Mounted Police at Athabasca would warn all people coming north by the wagon trail to be careful with camp fires and to carry a supply of water in the wagon or saddlebag in the event you had to stop where there was no water available.

Yes, in the fall of 1910, coming east from Grouard to Slave Lake the only stream that had water running and very little at that, was the Swan River. Sucker Creek, Driftpile, and Assineau Rivers were bone-dry and the other smaller creeks were not even noticed. Outside of water shortage over these routes in the nice dry fall seasons, travel north was a real pleasure.

Everyday you would see deer, moose, bears, and even timber wolves. Those were the good old days.

Chapter Two

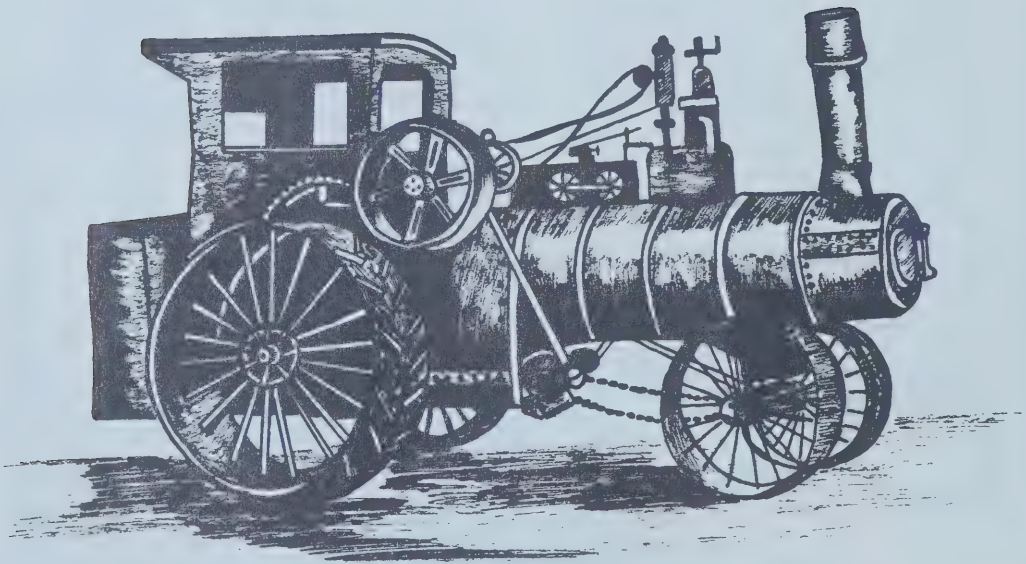
Early Native Pioneers with No Recorded History



Alexander Giroux
Mitchell Giroux
Jean Chretien Chalifoux
Samual Sound
Felix Giroux

Marie Chalifoux
Narcees L'Hirondelle
Julius Courtorielle
Benjamin Giroux

Pioneer Histories



The Dykemans

The first known white people to spend any time here were the Dykemans who were on their way to the Klondike gold rush of 1897. They built a house on the bank of what was later known as Cupps Creek and



The Dykeman House — built in 1898. First house built in Swan Valley.



The Dykeman house as it looks today in 1978, owned by Marvin Hunt.

the location is just a short distance from the bank of the Swan River. After the land was surveyed, it was the S.E. ¼ of 19-72-9W5. This house is still standing at the first part of 1967, but is used as a shop and garage by the present owner of the property, Marvin Hunt. Previous to this it had been changed slightly and was living quarters for former owners and their families. Little is known of the Dykemans or how long they occupied this house. It is understood that they had to leave or be picked up on smuggling charges.

Jesse and Nell Sloan

In 1818 in Ireland, William W. Sloan was born. He married Elizabeth Evans (1824-1906). She was known to have grown three sets of teeth and had extra good eye sight.

One of William's brothers, who lived in England, became famous as Dr. Earl Sloan, inventor of the still used SLOAN'S LINAMENT. William and Elizabeth immigrated to Wazeka, Wisconsin, U.S.A. where he fought for the north in the Civil War. William died in Iowa in 1899. They were blessed with eleven children, one of them being George. George was born in 1854, at Wazeka, Wisconsin. He married Martha Gardener on December 24, 1882. George and Martha's first born was Jesse Lee, born September 21, 1883, near the same place his dad was born at Wazeka. In 1894, George Sloan and his family moved to Mitchell County, Iowa. Here they farmed and made a living the best they could but with times as they were it soon became apparent they would have to move on.

It was in 1900 that George Sloan and family, which now had five children, moved to Foster County, North Dakota and here their last child, Ernest Ervin was born in 1901. Ernest is also a resident of Swan Valley. George passed away in 1910. Martha passed away in 1939, and is buried in Swan Valley.

On April 16, 1903 Jesse Lee married Nellie Idella Cupps. Nell was born November 16, 1884 in Wisconsin, U.S.A. Her father was George Cupps, and he farmed with Jesse for the first years of their marriage. Due to bad weather, their farms began running at a loss and things weren't going too well.

It was at this time, preparations were made for the trip to Northern Alberta, which is explained in detail in the Thesis (written by Dennis Ferguson) found later in this book.

They arrived in Edmonton in December, 1908, and started out by covered sleigh on January 2, 1909 for Swan Valley, arriving here on January 20, with their three small children all under five years of age, Hercel, Cecilia and Harold.

That winter they stayed in the Dykeman house. This house was built in about 1898; the original owners, the Dykemans, had by this time left the area.

The next summer they built a sod-roofed home on their homestead and moved in. Nell remembered back to the sod roofed home leaking for days after a rain.

Things weren't easy for the early pioneers. Their days were filled with taking from the land what they



Jesse Sloan and Howard Posey with calf moose that came in with milk cows in 1910.

could produce and trading any extra for staples they couldn't produce.

Trips to Edmonton had to be made for supplies they needed and which could not be produced.

The railway came through in 1914 and with it came more settlers. Things were made somewhat easier in that now travel to Edmonton took only two days instead of 2-3 weeks by wagon.

Jesse built a new log house in 1920, which was their home for approximately 45 years.



Building Jesse Sloan's house in 1920.

Jesse was one of the Trustees on the first school board in the Valley in 1912.

Nell will always be remembered for her ability to prepare meals for any number of people. She would quite often begin a meal with 10 and ending up with maybe 20 seated. Her usual answer when asked how she managed this was "I just throw another tater or two in the pot".

Nell always grew a beautiful vegetable garden and canned a lot of vegetables, pickles, jam, fruit and, in the earlier days, moosemeat, after the boys' annual trip to Grizzly Mountain.

There was always lots of milk and cream as at times they milked as many as twenty cows, ice was put up to keep meat on, and milk was hung down the well to keep cool.

Nell used to heat a rock before bedtime, wrap it in a towel and place it at the foot of their bed to help keep them warm.

For years Nell took care of those peoples mail, who lived on the south end of the Valley; someone would pick it up in town, then drop it off for Nell to pass out

during the week.

Nell will always be fondly remembered by her grandchildren for a never ending supply of sugar cookies.

Jesse and Nell together were very wonderful people. Nell always had a way with children from the very small to teenagers, yet never laid a hand to them.

Their great faith in God helped them through their sad times such as when a baby girl died at birth, a son Clarence died of stomach flu in October, 1928, and when another son Harold drown in the Wabasca River while trapping in 1934.



Jesse and Nell Sloan's family.

Left to right: Lawrence, Virgil, Glen, Leo, Raymond, Clifford, Hercel.

Front: Cecilia (Mrs. Tom Denison), Bertha (Mrs. Bob Moody).

Jesse's favourite T.V. program's were Don Messer's Islanders and the baseball games; he enjoyed the July 1st gatherings, most of which was spent behind the back stop watching the ball games. Jesse is remembered for his love of farming; was still helping with haying and grain cutting when he was in his early seventies. He spent many months in the hospital with never a word of complaint.

Jesse and Nell celebrated their 66th wedding anniversary just two weeks before Nell passed away in 1969, at their son's home, of a heart attack.

Jesse passed away on August 19, 1975 in the Nursing Home after a lengthy illness.

Jesse and Nell are buried in the Swan Valley Cemetery.

This hardy pioneer couple endured great hardships but also experienced many memorable, happy occasions. Their settling in this area is a great tribute to the community.

George Cupps and Jesse Sloan

First White Men to Come to the Swan Valley

The year 1907, was dry in the state of 'North Dakota', with the crops only yielding about 15 bushels to the acre. Three young men near 'Courtney, North Dakota, U.S.A.', were very discouraged and the lure of the 'Peace River Country' brought them to Edmonton by train. After outfitting, they made the trip over the hills to 'Sawridge', now known as 'Slave Lake'. There they met an Indian who told them there was a Valley along the south shore of 'Lesser Slave Lake', where there was lots of hay and also that there was a cabin and it was now vacated.

The three men were: Mr. Jesse Sloan, his father-in-law, Mr. George Cupps, and Mr. Harry Hunt (this is not the same Harry Hunt that is known to us now). Mr. Sloan and Mr. Hunt decided to investigate, but Mr. Cupps was tired of travelling, so decided to stay at Sawridge. The two men looking over the country, crossed the 'Swan River' near the lake, July 21st, 1907. After riding the length of the 'Valley', they were satisfied with the look of things. On coming back from the end of the 'Valley', they came across the cabin, which we know as the 'Dykeman House'. They left a note saying they had been there and planned on being back in the spring. They signed their names and went back to 'Sawridge'. There it was decided Jesse would go back to the States to take off the crops, while Harry and George would go back to the 'Valley' and cut hay for the horses. When Mr. Cupps finished putting up hay, he got ready for the trip back to the 'States' to help get his family ready for the trip 'North'. He hollowed out a log large enough to hold him and a few belongings. This mode of travel took him down the 'Swan River' and into the Lake, but it wouldn't take the rough water, and swamped him. Mr. Cupps managed to get to shore, where 'Father Giroux' helped him get his clothes dry, and offered him something to wear, while his were drying. When his clothes were dry, he decided the dug-out wouldn't do, so he walked all the way to Edmonton where he caught the train, which took him to the 'States'.

When Mr. Cupps and Mr. Hunt came back from 'Sawridge' with their supplies of flour, sugar, etc., it seemed the only place for the coal-oil and lantern was on top of the load. Upon arriving at their destination, they found to their dislike, the flour tasted like coal-oil. Upon investigating, they discovered a small hole in their coal oil lantern.

Cupps Family History

by Glennie Hunt

George Martin Cupps was born in 1850, in Illinois, where the center of Chicago is now. He had six brothers and sisters.

Lydia Hagerman was born in 1854 in Ohio. She had two sisters, Alvira and Charlotte.

They were married in 1875. They had six children of which I was the youngest. They first lived on a farm in Marietta Twp., Crawford County, Wisconsin. In 1892, they built and ran a hotel in Stuben, Wisconsin. They came to North Dakota and settled on a home-



George and Nellie Cupps in front of the old homestead house.



George (Grandpa) Cupps.

stead near Glenfield, North Dakota, in 1896. In 1908, they went to Northern Alberta, Canada and settled near Lesser Slave Lake, now Kinuso.

Lydia died in May of 1909 in Edmonton and was taken back to be buried in the cemetery at Courtenay, North Dakota.

George Cupps moved his family to Kinuso in 1908. He came overland from Edmonton through Athabasca and Sawridge which is now Slave Lake. He farmed in the Kinuso area until his death in 1919, when he was taken back to Courtenay, North Dakota and buried beside his wife.



George Cupps and Agnus (Grannie) Grono.

Peace River or Bust - Swan River and Busted

by Fenwick William Hill

As all journeys must have a beginning. I'll begin mine in Creston, B.C. It was here that I came, in the spring of 1905, and spent my time logging, some of this being on the site of the present town. One evening, a couple of fellows I worked with, Manuel Grono, and Bill Keay, came in saying, that they were going to the 'Peace River Country'. All of which was a joke. Although it started out as a joke, we started to think about it seriously, hardly even knowing where Peace River was.

We decided to go, so at the end of June 1907, Manual Grono, Bill Keay and myself, quit our jobs, and struck out for Edmonton. In Edmonton we bought a winter's grubstake, a wagon, and a team of horses. One of the horses, which we bought from 'La Rose' and 'Bell Livery Barn', roared so much when it breathed that a policeman told us to take it out of town, which we did very shortly. It was about July, 6th, 1907, that we started out for Athabasca Landing on the Athabasca Trail from Edmonton. At the landing we enquired about which road, or trail rather, to take the rest of the way. We decided upon a little travelled surveyors trail, which ran through the bush, on the south side of the river. This trail came out on the bank of The Athabasca River near the present Town of Smith. Here on the bank of the river we found a sign on a tree which read 'if you want the row-boat, wave the white flag, and if you want the scow, wave the red flag'. An Indian from the other side of the river, came across with a scow, just large enough for the wagon and team, which leaked so badly that I'm quite sure would have sunk had we gone much farther.

From Athabasca Landing we struck out for Saulteau Landing, the trail being so bad that the wagon tongue broke and one wheel was nearly gone. At Saulteau Landing, we caught the steam boat, and shipped our wagon and supplies on to what is now Sawridge. Bill Keay and I were going to take the horses up along the shore, not knowing which was the best way. We consulted with some Indians who said if we were to take the south shore of the lake, we would have to cross four rivers, while there was only one river to cross on the north shore but that this shore was very rocky. Thinking nothing of a few rocks, we chose to take the north shore, much to our dismay, as the horses feet became extremely sore on the rock strewn beach.

On our arrival by land at Shaws Point where the steam boat landed, we met the Hunts, who were camped there. There was John Charles Hunt (J.C.), his wife, his daughters, Eva and Ethel, his sons, Harry and Wilfred, their grandfather, James Malone, and a companion, Harry Braniff. With them they had 20 head of cattle, which like our horses were extremely foot-sore. Our party camped at an old Hudson Bay Post between Shaws Point and the present Town of Grouard.

During our stay of two days, in which the Hunt's party explored the surrounding country, a George

Moran came along and told us about the Swan River Country around the middle of the south side of the lake. This Swan River country sounded good, as the exploration party had found nothing to their liking in the vicinity of Shaws Point. On our way up the lake, we had seen an abandoned scow along the shore, and it was to this, our thoughts turned, to carry our supplies up into the Swan River Country. The men in our party managed to refloat the scow which was complete, with two large oars and a steering paddle. We loaded the scow at Shaws Point, and headed for the Swan River Valley, while the Hunt Boys and Grandfather Malone took the cattle, teams and wagons, along the south shore, to Swan River.

On the 19th of August, 1907, we arrived with our scow in the Swan River Valley. We managed to get the scow up to the rapids where we were beginning to run into some open land. About seven or eight miles further up the river, we came to a spot where the old river grass had been burned off, so we put up our hay there. After the hay had been put up, John Hunt found a location in the Valley so we set out to help him build his buildings; a log house and two barns. We 'hewed' some small logs for the floor of the house, and put sod up for a roof.

The three of us went up the Swan River, as far as Swan Creek, where we built our cabin. Here we spent the winter trapping, but it was an extremely cold winter for trapping, and we ended up with a grand total of \$24.00 between the three of us, for a winter's work. For that summer, and all the next winter and summer, the women in the Hunt family, or more properly party, never saw another white women till the spring of 1908.

The surveyors, also came into the Valley at this time, as settlers coming in up to this time had to squat on the land they had chosen. I was very lucky with the plot of land I ended up with. I could hardly have picked a better piece myself. It happened that I had squatted on the school quarter, which had access to the Swan River, and was mostly open land, with 3 quarters of vacant land, on which I ran cattle, until after World War II, when it was sold.

On September 12th, 1911, I married Eva Agnes Hunt, some four years after I had first seen her at Shaws Point. There, she was cooking a big pot of potatoes. After leaving the Hunts that evening, and setting up our own camp, Bill Keay, my companion, being on the hungry side said, "that pot of potatoes looked pretty good to me." It hadn't been the potatoes that caught my eye, and so I replied, "the one that was cooking them looked pretty good to me."

To get the marriage license, I rode to Grouard, but Bob Watts, the local J.P. wasn't home, so this meant a second trip. Rev. Wordsworth, one of the Student Ministers, who was sent out to Grouard each summer, married us. The ensuing celebration was small for lack of people in the Valley. Although there were few people yet in the Valley, it was not without some competition that I had won Eva's hand. George Cornell was to be seen at the Hunts, twisting his mustache, and making a bid, and there was Bill Keay,

who had not forgotten about the potatoes, and who was now more interested in the person that had been cooking them, and hoping that this person now might teach him how to dance.

After the marriage, we went to live on my homestead, where I had built a log cabin and barn. Here, we started our great life together with only three cows, a team of cayuses, three sections of harrows, a walking plow, a grubstake, and \$5.20 cents, in cash.



Finny and Eva Hill and Edgar. 1916-17.



Eva and Finny Hill and Edgar.

During the winter of 1907-8, there were eleven white people here. Harry and Wilfred Hunt still reside in the Valley, and their families as well. Five others reside in High Prairie, three others reside elsewhere. Manuel Grono, Mr. Malony, and Mr. and Mrs. J.C. Hunt, have passed away.

In the spring of 1908, W. H. Selby, led a party of surveyors, to survey land in the Valley. Another surveyor was Homer Johnson, who came later with another party, to do more surveying.

In the spring of 1908, (I am not sure whether he is speaking of himself or J. C. Hunt) on the land he and his family had squatted, and had built a log house, in which they had wintered, he filed for ownership of this land as soon as the surveying was complete. A trip to Grouard, on the west end of the lake, was necessary to file on homesteads. He was successful in getting his homestead rights to the S.E. ¼ sec. 1 twp. 73 range 10 W5.

Emanuel Grono

Emanuel was born in Dutch Settlement, Nova Scotia, March 13, 1870. He came to the Swan Valley in 1907 with two or three others and homesteaded.



Emanuel Grono's cabin on his homestead in 1914-15.

He never married but kept his homestead and farmed until 1944 when he sold it to Tom Sloan. He retired to Parksville, B.C. where he died on November 22, 1950.



Emanuel Grono and great niece Marjorie Turner, Emanuel's 80th birthday.

J. C. Hunt

The Hunt family, John Charles Hunt and Martha Ellen Hunt. The children: Eva, Harry, Wilfred and Ethel.



J.C. Hunt and wife Martha.

The move from Rolla, North Dakota to the Swan River Valley as remembered by their daughter Ethel Hunt (Kerle).

The move started in early June, 1907. There were two freight cars loaded with twenty-one head of cattle, two teams of heavy draft horses, a driving mare, a saddle pony, twelve hens, and a brown water spaniel dog named Curlie. This livestock was driven across the Canadian border to Lena, Manitoba for inspection before loading. There were two heavy wagons, a buggy, furniture, and all kinds of household goods (the best furniture was stored in Edmonton for several years).

The family travelled from Killarney, Manitoba to Edmonton, Alberta by train. James Maloney, mother's father, and Harry Breniff, a hired man from North Dakota, rode on the freight train to take care of the livestock. After a few days in Edmonton, the trip started to Athabasca Landing. From Edmonton to Athabasca there was a road on which a passenger stagecoach travelled. From there on it was just a trail. At Athabasca Landing my father lightened the load by shipping some freight north by steamboat to Mirror Landing, now called Smith. There, some freight was shipped north. We camped for some days at Mir-

ror Landing waiting for the steamboat to ferry us across the Athabasca. While waiting, mother made a huge baking of delicious bread, which she had been doing at various stops along the trail. It was always stored in a barrel churn to keep it fresh for weeks. There was one cow giving milk so we had lots of fresh milk. The hens were laying eggs in the crate that had to be gathered often. When the boat arrived, everything was loaded on the steamer and ferried across the Athabasca River.

Next stop was Sawridge where we met Mr. George Cupp's party. Jesse Sloan, Harry Depew, Mr. Bakke and others. Mr. Cupp decided to go to the Swan River Valley on the south side of the Lesser Slave Lake. Mr. Hunt decided to travel around the north side of the lake. At the town of Lesser Slave Lake, we met Fennie Hill, Bill Keys, and Emanuel Grono. They joined our family and all decided to go back to the Swan River Valley for the winter.

When the decision was made to go back to the Swan River Valley, Grandpa Maloney, Harry and Wilfred took the horses, wagon, and cattle back around the south side of the lake to the Valley. They lost one cow. The Indians found her and came and told us where she was. Father got a scow and the freight was loaded on it. We started down the lake. Fennie Hill, Bill Keys, Harry Breniff and Emanuel Grono, manned the two sets of oars, as there were no motors. After rowing and sailing several days, we came to the Swan River and came up the river some distance. It was arranged that Harry and Wilfred would watch the river for our arrival. Wilfred came on the pony and found us. He had been searching days for us.

We landed in the Valley August 19, 1907. Father intended to travel on to Grande Prairie the next spring. He had to settle some place for the winter early enough to make hay to feed all that livestock, but after seeing the beautiful Swan River Valley, he had no desire to go further.

After the hay was stacked, the homesteads had to be located. Each decided which spot of land he wanted. They had squatter's rights, as the land was not surveyed for a year later.

Next came the buildings, house, cow barn, horse barn, and a place for the chickens. James Maloney, Fennie Hill, Bill Keys, and Emanuel Grono were all woodsmen so building log buildings was easy for them. Fennie, Emanuel, and Bill went up in the Swan Hills and built a cabin and started trapping.

Our first house had windows. Some just had flour sacks over the window openings. All of the buildings had sod roofs. Grandpa Maloney hewed poplar logs and split them into boards to make our first table and wash stand. That was where the wash basin and water pails were put.

Our first winter was a lonely time for mother and Eva. They never saw a woman until the next spring.

Some Indians came with some furs and wanted to trade them for some clothes. Mother and Eva opened a trunk and got out some of their fancy dresses that they didn't have any place to wear and traded them for the fur pelts.

All our groceries, clothes, equipment, and anything else needed for a year was freighted from Edmonton with horses and sleighs. Most of the trip was made on the lakes and rivers on the ice to Athabasca Landing. From there it was one hundred miles over land to Edmonton. The distance from Swan River to Edmonton at that time was three hundred miles.

The mail came once a month to the town of Slave Lake. That was as often as the mail came to that north country. It was fifty miles to the post office. The first year or so mail was addressed to Swan River, Alberta. There was some confusion as there was a post office by that name in Manitoba. So our address was Lesser Slave Lake until it was changed to Grouard. Sometime later there was a mail bag for the Valley carried on the steam boat in the summer. It used to be Wilfred's job to go and wait for the boat. There was a row boat kept at Wapaw Point. Anyone going after the mail rowed out to the deep channel and the canvas mail bag was tossed over the side. If it landed in the row boat, fine. If not, it was fished out of the lake. If the wind was blowing, the water was too rough to row out to meet the boat, so no mail until next trip which might be several days.

The milk house had to be built in early spring. It was dug out of the side of a bank and long wooden shelves were placed along the wall. One window at the back for ventilation. The milk was strained into milk pans that were made from tin and granite and let stand for twenty-four hours. The cream was then skimmed off and the skim milk fed to the calves and pigs. Cream was churned to butter and sold at a high price. Years later there was a cream separator to simplify the work.

By spring time the horses became sick with swamp fever and died. By this time settlers were coming right along and the Indians got worried about where they were going to get their land. So, Dr. Donald, the Indian agent, came from the town of Lesser Slave Lake to our home. A settlement was made as to where the Indians would have their reservation.

Father had started a store or trading post in the early days. That continued until there were stores in Kinuso town. Father bought furs from the Indians.

There was a July celebration held at the Hunt farm for several years. The Indians had a place in the celebration. The granary was always cleaned out and a dance was held every night of the three day celebration. Horse races and parades and games were also a part of the celebration. The last one at the Hunt farm took place in 1915.

The Glennie Hunt Story

as told by Glennie Hunt

I was born in Stuben, Wisconsin on February 22, 1895, the youngest child in a family of six, born to George and Lydia Cupps. We lived on a farm for awhile and then moved into Stuben into a hotel which Dad had built and where I was born. In 1897 my family moved from Wisconsin to North Dakota where my Dad took up a homestead near McHenry in Foster County.

Because of the pamphlets and advertising about the beautiful Peace River country, my father left North Dakota around June 1st, 1907, heading for the Peace River country, with one immigrant car full of our belongings. At that time you were given railroad cars to ship everything in, including your livestock and machinery. You could get a quarter of land for \$10.00 and prove up on it like you do now. That year he returned to North Dakota and when I was 12 years old, he took the whole family and the rest of our belongings and shipped them to Edmonton. After we arrived in Edmonton, we unloaded the cars, loaded the wagons and struck out for the Peace River country. My mother and I rode the stage to Athabasca which took two days and a change of horses to get there. We stopped overnight at a place called "Eggies" and we were furnished food and bedding. A fellow named Harry DePew was supposed to meet us in Athabasca and he was there when we got there, but a man named Albert Good and his wife were heading North and they said we could travel with them, so Harry stayed to meet Dad with the wagons and we left with them and J. C. Hunt, who was on his way home from North Dakota. Mr. Hunt said we could stay at his place until our furniture got here because his wife would be glad to have the company. When we got to Hunts, we stayed about 10 days cause I remember we were there for April Fools Day. Dad had met up with J. C. Hunt in Sawridge (now Slave Lake) in 1907 when he first came. Jesse Sloan was also with Dad when he first came, but Jesse went back to North Dakota to harvest and didn't come back to Canada until 1908. When we left the Hunts' place we moved into the Dykeman house which was empty at the time. We lived there for about 6 years until Dad had to move onto his homestead and prove up on it. He built a log house with a sod roof on it which was real nice when it rained. At this time we had Harry Depew, Jim Posey, and Billy Tomlinson living with us. One morning Dad got up and said, "Well boys, money is kind of scarce and some of us have to go to work." They left and went working putting up the telegraph line and surveying. Jim Posey went to work in a livery barn in Grouard and also driving the mail team part time. We had our own vegetables, milk, and butter and got lots of whitefish from the Indians. Mother figured this was a real good place to live because everything she planted grew and there were lots of berries of every kind. At this time there were only 5 kids, 3 Hunt kids, and Howard Posey and me. We needed 7 kids to get a school, so didn't get our school until 1912 when Jesse Sloan's kids got old enough to go to school. School was held in the United Church which was built where the Swan Valley Cemetery now stands. The ministers from Grouard used to visit us once in awhile and hold church services. To get our start in cattle, Dad traded a big heavy harness and wagon to Oliver Travers in High Prairie for 4 cows and 5 calves. Harry Depew had stayed to look after the stock when Dad went back to North Dakota to get us and when we got back Dad traded a big team of bay driving horses to pay Harry's store bill in Grouard. I used to go to Grouard with Dad to do our trading but

we usually went to Edmonton to get our winter provisions because they were cheaper.

In December of 1908, we started for Edmonton with my mother who had been sick for awhile and didn't seem to be getting any better. Dad built a caboose on a sleigh and put a stove on it. We had four head of horses, two with shoes and two without. While we travelled on the lake, the horses fell down a lot cause the wind had blown the snow off the ice in a lot of places. Dad was driving the sleigh and I was leading the other team. I heard somebody hollering and it was the driver of the mail team. He had went through the ice with one of his horses and he was trying to get us stopped, so I took off after Dad to tell him to turn in for shore. I guess if the mail driver hadn't stopped us we would have all went through the ice. He pulled his horse out and put a blanket over it and lit out running so the horse wouldn't freeze. We stayed overnight in Sawridge because it was real cold and then left for Edmonton. We did okay until we got south of the Athabasca and found there had been a big wind and trees were blown down across the trail for miles. It took Dad 5 days with an axe to clear out the trail again and keep wood for a fire. We just had it done when a string of freight teams came along heading for High Prairie. You could hear the brass bells on the harness for miles. They never even stopped to talk, just said "Thanks old man, for cutting out the trail," and went right on. We got Mother to the hospital in Athabasca but the doctors there said she couldn't go any further. She stayed there until March then Dad took her to Edmonton where she died in April. They never did seem to know just what was wrong with her. After we left Mother in Athabasca, we went into Edmonton where we met Jesse and Nell Sloan at the Strathcona Hotel on New Years Eve and we stayed at the Transit Hotel. When we got back to the Swan Valley, Jesse and Nell lived with us and I guess Nell became a mother to me and Howard Posey because Howard's mother had died when he was only a few days old.

In 1910, we traded clothes, vegetables, butter and whatever we had to the Indians for 3 calf moose. We kept them until a fellow named Cody, who was running for Government told us we couldn't keep them so he made arrangements for us to sell them to the Wainwright Park for \$300.00. We used to let them run loose during the day and pen them in a shed at night to keep them out of things. At that time \$300.00 was a lot of money and we bought all kinds of groceries and a mowing machine. I remember we hauled the moose there by ox team and upset it in the brush once on the way there. Because we had no boys in our family, my Dad always called me "Sonny", even after Howard came to live with us. Someone had told Dad that the muskegs were terrible up here, but Dad said he wasn't worried because he had lots of guns. He soon found out that muskegs weren't animals and a gun wasn't much good against them.

I remember when we lived in the Dykeman house, it only had two windows and a homemade door with a string latch on it. The latch lifted up when you pulled the string to go in and dropped down again when you

shut the door. If you wanted to, you could pull the string in at night and nobody could open the door from the outside but you didn't worry about that in those days. Also the road used to run from house to house and not in a straight line like it does now.



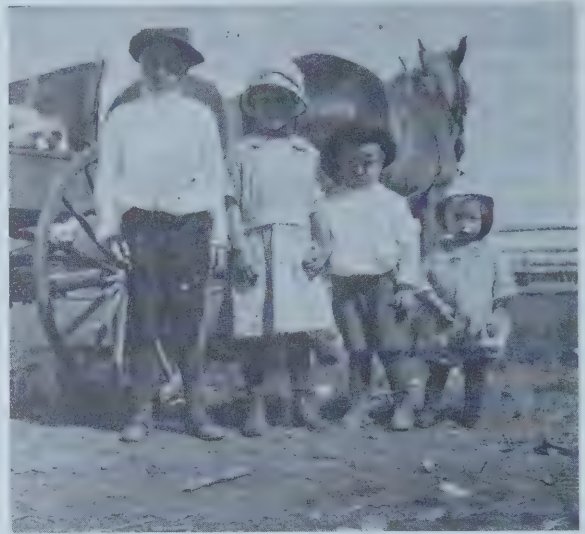
Harry and Glennie Hunt and baby John — 1917.

On the 22nd of August, 1914, I married David Harrison Hunt in Grampa Hunt's house. The minister was English and his name was Abbott. Our wedding was the second held in the Swan Valley Settlement. Eva and Finney Hills' was the first. After we were married, we stayed with Harry's folks until November and then moved to what is now the home



Glennie and Harry Hunt's home in 1923.

place where I've lived ever since. We had 2 ponies, 3 pigs, 30 chickens, and about 10 or 11 head of cattle including 4 milk cows for our start. When the two oldest children, John and Evelyn were born, I had "Grannie" Grono for midwife but for the other 6



John, Evelyn, George and Norman Hunt.

children who lived, I had a doctor or a nurse. Harry passed away in 1975 and our son, John, died in 1977. Our daughter, Irene, was killed in a car accident in 1955. I have 53 grandchildren and 55 great-grandchildren. All of my surviving children live in Swan Valley and also some of my grandchildren. Those children still living in Swan Valley are; Ella (Mrs. Wayne Sloan), Norman, George, Evelyn (Mrs. George Robinson), Marvin, and Marjorie (Mrs. George Gallagher). My son, John, served in the armed forces from 1942 until the end of the war and married Alice Robinson, George Robinson's sister, while he was overseas.

Wilfred Hunt Family

Submitted and written by Steve Prichuk

I was born in Rolla, North Dakota Feb. 9, 1894. I immigrated to Canada with my parents when I was 12 years old on May 7, 1907.

We had two railroad boxcars of effects including 24 head of cattle, 6 horses, and appropriate equipment.

James Maloney and Harry Breniff went along with the boxcars. James Maloney was my grandad, and Harry Breniff was his hired man. Our destination was Grande Prairie. We had to unload everything in Edmonton as this was the end of the railroad line.

From here we headed out in wagons for Athabasca Landing. We, my brother Harry a year and a half older than I, were responsible for herding the cattle.

The mosquitoes were so thick some days you couldn't even see the sun.

From Athabasca Landing, we headed along the south side of the river to Smith. Here was the task of crossing the river. Harry Breniff suggested we build a



Wilfred Hunt sitting in his mother's rocking chair brought in early days.

raft, a big one! But Grandad was against this; he didn't want to see us all drown. My Dad noticed there was an Indian on the otherside, so he signaled to him, and he crossed over in a canoe.

He told us there was a steamboat that would be coming up the river, possibly the next day. When the boat arrived, Dad made arrangements with Captain Barber to take us across the river. This took the last fifty dollars Dad had. So he sent to his brother Waggel in the States, to sell his other quarter of land and send the money.

There was a mail route from Edmonton to Grouard by messenger. After everything was moved across the river, we headed for Grouard.

When we arrived at Sawridge with the cattle, wagons, etc., we decided we would go along the north side of Lesser Slave Lake to Grouard.

Jesse Sloan caught up to us at Sawridge. He and Balsey Bowers, a friend of his walked from here to the Swan Valley to have a look at the area. They planned to return to South Dakota to get the family and come back in 2 years time. As we made our way to Grouard, we realized that summer was passing and we were still a long way from Grande Prairie. Dad decided we better stop here and plan to go on in the spring, as we would soon need feed for the cattle.

He was told at Grouard that there was a nice Valley up the Swan River with plenty of good hay. We needed a grub stake though and had no money left. He obtained credit from the Revillon Brothers, on the strength of his cattle and machinery. He was to pay it back when he got settled.

My brother Harry, my Grandad Maloney and I, would take the horses and wagons and cattle and make our way to Swan Valley and find the Dykeman house. Dad and Harry Breniff got a scow along with Finny Hill, Bill Keys, and Manuel Grono. They caught up to us at Shaws Point, one night when we were camped there.

They took this scow from Grouard to Swan River Point, then up the Swan to the old crossing about where Jack Killeen lives today. After unloading all our belongings, Finny Hill and Bill Keys took the scow back down to the mouth of the Swan River where a steamboat would take the scow back to Grouard. Dad and Finny walked from this crossing up the Swan Valley in search of the Dykman house.

We had to use the horses and wagons to get our belongings over to this house. George Cupps was living in the Dykman house at the time.

We camped here for 2 weeks while Dad, Finny Hill, Bill Keys, Manuel Grono, and Grandad went to stake some land. Grandad Maloney picked out a spot on Dad's land and said "this is where we will build the house. There's lots of trees handy and I will build a fireplace" (which he did). He made it out of mud and clay which almost burned the house down several times. Here we put up hay for winter and built shelters for the animals. Our new home was ready and we moved into it Aug. 16, 1907.

We had no schooling for the first 3 years. Then my Dad took my sister Ethel and I, to Buffalo Bay to an English Mission. But they refused to accept us, saying the diet of fish 3 times a day would not be suitable to us!

Later Dad and George Cupps got a teacher to come from the High Prairie area. Her name was Miss Tassel. She taught 3 months of the year. While here she stayed with us on Dad's place. She taught for a summer then Sid Travers the Fish Inspector, married her and that was the end of our teacher. After that we had Jack Spratt. He was an ordained minister from Grouard. Some of the kids I remember were Glennie Cupps, Howard Posey, Hercel Sloan, Cecil Sloan, Tom Grono, Martha and Cynthia Grono, Harry and myself.

Later on my monthly job was to go to Wahpah Point to meet the steamboat to get the mail and whatever there was to pick up. Chip Geroux used to come with me to meet the boat. Sometimes we waited for days for the boat to come.

In 1917, I married Zelma Hyhet. We had 2 daughters, Mildred and Hazel. They were registered by Matt Whitecotton.

I enlisted and was in the Army for just over a year. Raising a family and trying to make a living was quite a tough battle for me. I decided to go back to the States to work. As soon as I had enough money to pay the fare for them, I sent for Zelma and the girls. Later here in Burns, Oregon, she took sick and died.

A few years later, I re-married and we lived in Mir-dall Point, Oregon. Here we had 5 children, Charlie, Maryanne, Dick, Paul and Faye.

I had been in the States now for about 15 years. We decided in 1939 to move back to Canada. We moved to Kinuso and into the same house that Dad built in 1907. Here we took up farming again. Later with the kids growing up, we decided to build a new house on the same quarter of land, but on the east side of the river.

Steve Prichuk, just out of school and being a handy man with almost anything there was to do, was asked

to help me. Together we set up a sawmill and sawed the lumber to build the house. John Courtoreille and Scotty McNiel also helped me build the house. It was finished in 1946. We raised sheep here as well as cattle. I did a lot of custom threshing as I had an outfit. With the years, we enjoyed our life here. The kids are all gone and married, but I still live in the same house in my retirement.

I was 85 years old Feb. 9, 1979.

A History of the "Posey" Family

Howard and Agnes Posey

Howard, came to the country in 1908, and Agnes came in 1915. They married in 1928, March 24th, in High Prairie. They had 5 children, the first died at birth, leaving 4 children: Nonnie, Dave, Rose and Cecile. Howard Posey passed away on July, 22, 1975. Agnes lives in Kinuso, at present. (more information of early arrival and further information through this book).

Nonnie Rose — Mr. and Mrs. Ken Stevenson

The oldest daughter born April 14th, 1933, married Ken Stevenson, second youngest son of Edger and Netty Stevenson, in 1950. They have two children, David, born July, 1952, and Linda Rose, born 1954 on April 6th. At present Linda and Ken are in Edmonton, and Dave and Nonnie live in Kinuso.

David Howard — Mr. and Mrs. Dave H. Posey

Oldest and only son, born March 11th, 1936, married Margaret Hall of England on Aug. 4th, 1962. They have 3 boys; Mark, born Feb. 22nd 1965, — Todd, born Aug. 30th, 1966, — Sean, born Aug. 11th, 1970. At present, Dave works at Mutual Life of Canada, and they live at Ardrossan.

Rose Marie — Mr. and Mrs. Alvin Lillo

Second oldest daughter, born Sept. 3rd, 1938, married Alvin Lillo, of Kinuso, on June 24th, 1960. They have two children, Gwen, born Feb. 23rd, 1962, and Doug, born Feb 11th, 1963. At present Rose and

Alvin live in Kinuso. Rose is school librarian. Alvin runs C and L Logging Enterprises.

Cecile — Mr. and Mrs. Tanasiuk

The youngest child, born April 19th, 1940, married Willie Tanasiuk of Saskatchewan in 1958, Aug. 15th. They have four children: Cindy, born May 20th, 1957, Howard, born June 11th, 1961, Kim, born Aug. 18th, 1962, and Crissy, born Feb. 20th, 1978. At present they live on a farm, 4 miles north of Kinuso.

Howard Posey and Family

Coming from the State of North Dakota, in the U.S.A., to the Swan River Valley in 1908, made Howard one of the most delightful people to talk to. He told the most interesting stories, of learning to live in the Valley, and of learning the ways of the Indians. Howard was one of the only white boys in the Valley at that time.

He was born March 11, 1899, in Wisconsin, U.S.A. His Mother died when he was 3 days old, leaving him to be raised by his grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Cupps. When he was 9 years old, he came with them, his father Jim Posey, and Glennie Hunt (Cupps) his aunt, to the Swan River Valley in Alberta. They lived in the Dykeman house for 3½ years.

The schooling Howard was able to get was at the Valley School, where he and Glennie both attended, being the same age (near).

School was held in a log Church, situated between the present cemetery and the road. Church services were held on Sundays and school classes on week days.

After leaving school, when he was about 12 years old, he, his grandfather, his father, and an old Indian from "Driftpile" named Witch-a-weezy, trapped for several winters. Witch-a-weezy, was a good trapper, and showed them new ways of trapping in this country. With his experience and help they all made good.

As a teenager, Howard was always willing to help neighbors take care of their stock, tend their fires, or whatever needed doing, while they went to Grouard or Edmonton for their yearly supplies. Trips "out" would take all the way from 2 weeks to a month.

From 1917 to approximately 1920, he left the Valley in the summers working on Ranches in southern Alberta, always coming back to the Valley to work in the bush in the winters, finally hiring on with Brewsters at Banff, who were running a "Tourist Business." His first job was driving a "Tally-ho" taking tourists for scenic rides through the mountains. He did this for a couple of summers, then guided tourists on horseback rides from Banff to Lake Louise.

In 1927, he quit Brewsters and stayed in the Valley again; he and Charlie Freeze farmed the Clark land, 3½ miles west of Kinuso for a year or so.

In the early part of 1928, he and Agnes Labby were married at her parents' home, with Cordy and Fred Labby standing up for them. Agnes, was born in Polk County Wisconsin, in 1907. She came to Swan River in 1915, when she was 8 years old, where her parents



Left to right: Mrs. Lillo, Howard Posey, Mrs. Onstine and some of the grandchildren.

Mr. and Mrs. Joe Labby homesteaded land north of Town. She is the second youngest daughter of a family of 5 daughters and four sons.

Howard and Agnes have 4 children, Nonnie, still living in Kinuso, Dave the only son, living in Edmonton, Rose Marie and Cecile, both living in Kinuso.



Howard Posey family.
Front: Cecile.
Centre: Agnes and Howard.
Back: Rose, Dave and Nonnie.

Since Howard had grown up looking after horses, and had handled so many working for Brewsters, he became an expert horseman. He brought in 4 of the best black horses that were ever in the district. Liking them so much, of course each one had to have a name; King, Sam, Chub, and Baldy. He was noted all over the country for the work he could do with the horses working on the railroad grade, and on the highway.

Howard was as good as most "Vets" at doctoring horses and cattle. People came from as far as Slave Lake and Faust to get his help.

He farmed the Adams farm for 6 years, then needing to send the children to school, he had to get closer to Town. He moved on the Cail place, but soon sold out his stock and machinery and built a nice big home in town.

He worked on the coal-dock for 2 years, in 1950-51 he took the job of Town Policeman which he kept for 3 years. After getting tired of that he hired on with the Department of Highways under Doug McLaughlin, working until he retired. After this he wasn't going to sit around, so he and his Grandson, Dave Stevenson worked up a good trade in selling wood. He died in 1975 after a long, full and happy life.

Agnes, at 72 years, still lives in her home that she and Howard built in Kinuso. She contributes to the Community by donating hand made quilts and home baking at the Senior Citizens and Agricultural Society for the new Complex.

She baby sits for her grandchildren, sews, knits, tats, braids, rugs, and is very fond of doing carpenter work.

Even though she lives alone, she is still active and happy.

Grandparents

They came to this land
from far to the south,
looking for peace and freedom
in a savage, barren land.

They came by ox-cart and horse,
by rail and by sea.

Settling near the banks and valley,
of the Swan River.

To start a new life,
in this rugged land.

Men and women had to do,
what must be done.

To build a home,
from the trees of the forest.
To support and raise a family,
from the sweat of their brows.
To produce, survive and conquer
the hardships, the land held in store.

The first of many
of this new breed, that would settle in homesteads
in the land of the Mighty Peace.

He was a rugged looking man
weather beaten face,
with scared and callous hands
and a heart so true.

Raised by his father and aunt
after his Mother had died,
when he was but 3 days old.
From tourist guide to ranch hand,
from camps in Banff, Alta,
to logging virgin timber.
Just a man, just a man.

She was small in stature,
with hair so fair.
Raised in a large family,
4th youngest of 8.
Being small and frail looking
stopped her none.
She could work along side any man
yet whimper or complain,
she would not do.

These are a few things
the pioneers had,
The will to live, the will to survive.
A love for the land, and a common goal;
with a love for each other,
they set out together,
becominng husband and wife.
Mr. and Mrs., they would become to be known,
in one word, "GRANDPARENTS".

(written by Dave Stevenson)

C. J. Schurter

I was on the crew that built the government telegraph line from Edmonton to Peace River 1909-1910 so I can tell you a lot of stories and "fibs" too. I think it was around June 10th that we got to the Swan River with our line. We had our camp on this side of the river (I mean the west side) where it was shady as that particular time the weather was awfully hot. The Swan River was so low that we could not even swim in it. We got some early vegetables from J. C. Hunt. One night a whole bunch of us went out there and helped them to milk the cows, hoed some potatoes and sawed some wood. If I remember right we played (500), as Mr. Hunt said he was an expert and show us young (punks) a few tricks.



Charlie Schurter.

Our next move from the Swan River was somewhere this side of now Faust. That same year I think it was December 10th, I was west on telegraph line repair I stayed at Hunt's overnight and the next night I was going to stay at Assineau point stopping place; when I left the shore to go across the bay it started to snow and I got lost on the lake at 5:30 p.m. and was there till daylight the next morning, which was almost 9 o'clock. It was not cold and as I had lots of grub, bed roll, feed for the horses, I did not mind it at all. I thought it was wonderful experience as I read about such cases on the prairies back in earlier years when homesteaders got lost between their shacks and barns in blizzards. Had it been a cold night I would not have started but then again it could have developed into a blizzard during the night and then things would have been different.

Mr. and Mrs. George W. Moore

Written by daughter Jean

My father, George William Moore, was born June 27, 1878, at Riceburg in the Province of Quebec, son of Galloway Moore and Jane (Suggett) Moore.

My Mother Jessie Catherine (Sutherland) Moore was born at East River St. Marys, Pictou County, Nova Scotia, March 9, 1874, daughter of David Alexander Sutherland and Ann (MacKay) Sutherland.



Mr. and Mrs. George Moore's first home in Swan Valley. Built in 1911.

Dad came west as far as Virdun, Manitoba in 1905, working in the harvest fields and in 1906, he went to Lowell, Massachusetts, U.S.A. where he worked at the Woollen Mills. This is where he met Mother. As Dad liked what he had seen in Manitoba and further west was being developed, after two years at Lowell, he returned to his home in Riceburg, for a short period of time. Then he headed west in 1909 and arrived in Edmonton, in the very early spring. It didn't take long to convince himself, that he had found what he liked and evidently had little trouble in convincing Mother of the same thing. She joined him and they were married June 30th, 1909, in the First Presbyterian Church on 105th Street. They operated the Tent and Mattress shop on Whyte Ave. for awhile in partnership with Harvie L. Ross, then in early 1910, when the Grande Prairie area was the talk of everyone, Dad sold his share of the business to Mr. Ross and Mother and Dad made plans to outfit themselves with supplies and materials to investigate this new development.

Soon a few heard of their plans and Mr. George Cornell, a former acquaintance in the East of Dad's, became interested in the trip, and on Wednesday, Sept. 14, 1910, the party started out consisting of Mr. and Mrs. George Moore, Mr. George Cornell, Mr. Frank Clark from Maine, Mr. James Harrison from Montana, and Mr. Fred Bauchus from Quebec. Each man had a team of oxen on a farm wagon loaded with supplies consisting of everything from baking powder to ammunition. Quantity was the main idea as goodness only knew when or where replacements could be found, however through careful planning and ordering and living off the land whenever possible with things such as wild chicken, ducks, fish. My folks had bought a cow "Daisy," which supplied milk for many uses and also was a great pet. She would follow my Mother everywhere and in the evening would lay by the campfire and was perfectly willing to be used as a seat.

When camp was set up for a day due to repairs or something, Mother would bake bread and two or three hundred baking power biscuits, and also johnny cakes. Actually thousands of her delicious biscuits must have been eaten during the seven weeks on the trail. According to the faithful diary she kept, some meals consisted of partridge, dumplings, potatoes, biscuits, milk and tea.

The trip held many trials and tribulations, but it

was not without several laughable memories such as the time one of the oxen got quite curious and tasted a cake of Lifebuoy soap, found it quite tempting, maybe delicious, so devoured it all, no need to add that the ox didn't do his usual task the following day, as it became quite sick but rallied to carry on. One other time some of the men had been working in water, fixing roads

moving the wagons, and had put the wet clothes to dry around the fire when along came the curious ox sniffing around and into the fire they went, so that animal wasn't appreciated for awhile.

After seven weeks of battling muskeg, sloughs, trees, and even getting stuck going down hill, the party arrived in this Valley where the grass was as tall as people, and such an abundant growth. They had heard of a few settlers being already here, so upon meeting a few of these people, they had no difficulty in making up their minds to at least spend winter here as the stock were getting tired and footsore. The winter was spent in a log house owned by Mr. Jesse Sloan. This house boasted of two rooms, and a cellar full of potatoes and vegetables.

That winter they took care of the Jesse Sloan place while they were in Grouard and also did the chores at the Cupps home while they were in Edmonton for supplies.



Mr. and Mrs. George Moore with June and Clarence Quinn.

During this time and in the spring they had looked over available land as by then they all had decided with the exception of Mr. Baukus, who preferred life

a bit nearer the bright lights, and returned to Edmonton. So the four men, Dad, Mr. Cornell, Mr. Clark, and Mr. Harrison, chose locations which they thought suitable and made the trip when they could get away to Grouard some fifty miles away at the west end of the Lesser Slave Lake as that was where the Land Office was located. Dad filed on the N.E. 24-72-10 W 5, Mr. Cornell on the S.E. 25-72-10 W5, just across a road allowance. Mr. Harrison filed on S.W. 8-72-9, and Mr. Clark filed on N.E. 9-73-10 and after the usual posting needed they were all notified that they were successful. Dad built a log house 24 ft. X 45 ft. on his land. The others also built log homes on each of their's. Dad and Mother, also their only child Jean Catherine, who had made her appearance Dec. 9, 1911, lived in a log house until the fall of 1931 when we moved into a new ready cut (Alladdin) home which was built that summer on an adjoining quarter



George Moore riding his oxen after skidding out logs for his house.



Mr. George Moore and Clarence Quinn.

section (S.W. 30-72-9-W5) which had been purchased in 1916 from Mr. Albert Good.

Mother and Dad remained in this district farming and made their living by raising grain, cattle, and pigs. They were active in community affairs such as the organizing of the School District in 1912, the U.F.A. and U.F.W.A., building of the Methodist Church in 1911, and various organizations in the community.

Mother passed away June 13, 1946, after a lengthy illness. Dad suffered a slight stroke in 1955, but recovered fairly well and continued with odd jobs around the farm until Aug. 8, 1957, when cultivating an unused portion of the garden plot with the TD6 Trac type tractor and spring tooth harrow, he suffered a heart attack and passed away on the tractor. His ten year old grandson, Gerald Quinn, ran and stopped the tractor as Dad had always made sure that we all knew how to stop or shut off all the tractors in case of accidents.

The farm continued in the family as my husband Ed Quinn and myself carried on assisted by our family of five.

Matt and Nellie Whitecotton

At this time of the century, a railroad was being built from Edmonton, west, in the hopes of reaching the west coast, thus making an outlet to Vancouver. I believe it never got farther than "Waterways," or near the town of "Fairview."

In 1913 - 14, the "Swan River" station was built, and a station agent installed by the name of Hyslip. The water tank was also ready to give service to engines getting as far as the "Swan River."

The first engines were called Donkey engines. They were small and carried material on flat cars for building the railroad.

In 1914, the 4th day of April, Matt and Nellie Whitecotton came from Smith, Alberta and established a make shift restaurant on the right-of-way, in the front of where the the Sr. Citizen Drop In Center is situated now. (Ref. to picture #1)



Whitecotton's first Restaurant built in the spring of 1914. Left to right: Albi Wightman, Matt Whitecotton, Nellie Whitecotton and Vera. Notice how tents are put together; front, diningroom, centre, kitchen, back, for a bedroom.

The following is a story written by Vera McLaughlin, (Whitecotton), a daughter, who was 5 years old at that time.



Back: Vera, Matt Whitecotton, Nellie Whitecotton and Myrtle at 1 year in 1918.

Matt Whitecotton, was born May 22nd, 1863, in the state of Iowa, U.S.A., on a farm. He was one of twins. He and his brother Bob, grew up being very close. Both men found themselves in Alberta; Bob in Lacombe, and Matt in the Peace River Country.

Nellie, my mother, was born in Kent, England, in 1880. When she was 18 years old, she immigrated to Canada.

In the year 1913, through a sense of adventure and a need for employment, my folks came as far west as they could, the end of the steel on the E.D. and B.C. coming as far west as "Smith." Passenger trains came that far at that time. So Mum and Dad boarded the train at Edmonton, and came that far.

The railroad bridge over the Athabasca was under construction, employing between 20 and 30 men, but they had no place to eat, so Mother and Dad were persuaded to start a restaurant.

Matt rented a fairly large vacant building, and made a dining room in the front of it, and a kitchen in the back part. He had brought a tiny tent with him, and this he erected on a wooden frame, with a wood floor and board walls, about 3 ft. from the ground. There was just room for their bed and a small air-tight heater in it. They built a wood bunk and attached it

over the end of their bed for me. Soft spruce boughs were used for my mattress.

Their one luxury was an "Edison Gramophone," a square box with cylinder records and a very large horn. (This horn was later used by Eunice Smith to announce events for the local rodeos). This music box sat in the corner of the tent on the floor. Can you imagine the difference from then and now with all our beautiful radios and T.V. sets?



Agnes Stephenson (Mrs. Whitecotton's mother).

In January 1914, Mother became very ill from over work, and Matt took her to Edmonton to the Strathcona Hospital which is the University now, where she spent the better part of a month. I remember Dad and I stayed in the old Royal George Hotel and went every day to visit her by horse and carriage, which was the taxi service at the time in Edmonton.

When we returned to Smith, the restaurant had burned down to the ground and we had lost everything but our small tent.

Everything looked pretty hopeless with no work and no place to go, but in the interval, Fred Arnold had rented a log shack, down by the Athabasca River, and asked us to stay with him until we could find a place of our own.

Mr. Hyslip, the station agent at "Smith" had been transferred to the newly built station at "Swan River." When he heard of our misfortune, he sent word with a friend, who was an engineer on one of the engines to come to "Swan River," and start another "Restaurant," as there was nowhere for the trainmen to eat when they got this far.

Once again, they started the journey west, to "Swan River." At this time the bridge over the "Athabasca," wasn't finished, but an engine could go over it, if they went very slow. Because Mum and Dad knew these trainmen, we were able to ride on the back of the engine, between the engineer and the coal bin. I remember this vividly, as I was so scared. We then rode on a flat car for several miles, as far as this work train came, then some roadmen brought us the rest of the way on a speeder, more correctly, a hand car to the bridge over the "Swan River." Somehow the engines could cross to take on water from the "Water Tank." Mother and Dad walked from the bridge to the station. Dad carried me on his back,

with his gun and tent in his hands, and Mother carried our clothes in a flour bag (Five Roses). How they got the "Edison Gramophone" up to Swan River, I do not know, but I know we had it later.

When we got to the "Station," the Hyslips welcomed us with open arms and a nice hot meal. The first night for awhile, that we had nice clean warm beds to sleep in. My one recollection after arriving, was of waking up the next morning and hearing a rooster crowing. The Hyslips had brought their chickens with them, as eggs were hard to come by.

We stayed at the Hyslips for a few days, while Dad made plans to make some sort of a home for us. He was able to get a large tent from somewhere, and put it on a wooden frame, and a board floor, to serve meals in. He put up the small tent that he had brought with him for our bedroom. (Refer to picture #1 Whitecotton Restaurant).

This was situated on the right-of-way, beside the railroad and in front of where the Sr. Citizen building is now.

While Dad was fixing up this "Restaurant," a young man came for a meal. When he saw what Dad was doing he said that he would put up a shack with a couple of bunks in it. People passing through could sleep at his place and eat at ours.

This went on all summer, and winter, but Dad thought the tents too cold to spend winter in, so he got some lumber from Mr. Harrison's mill, and put up a "Cook House," and a "Bunk House," two separate buildings. (Refer to picture #2 Whitecotton Restaurant).

The bunk house had a hall and four bedrooms on each side. It was made out of rough lumber and one ply of tar paper. There was a small air-tight heater in each room, and a big barrel stove in the hall. Many a joke has been told of that bunk house, and how no matter how much wood you poured into those stoves, the frost would be on everything. I really do believe the winters were colder in those days.

When the "Townsite" was formed in 1918, the people who were living on the right-of-way were given 30 days to move, to buy lots and move. There wasn't time for Dad to build a new "Restaurant" and get rid of the old ones, so he decided to move the "Cook House and "Bunk House" on to lots, where the present hotel now stands.

He raised the buildings and put two long rollers under the floor. He then went out from the building about 50 feet and dug a post in the ground and mounted a wagon wheel on top of it. He hooked a real heavy rope to the building, then on to the wheel. A team of horses was then hitched to the rope, and driven in a circle winding the rope around the wheel, thus pulling the building. When the rollers got to the end of the building, he re-set the post and wagon wheel. In this way he moved the buildings. He bolted the two buildings together to make a third "Restaurant and Rooms."

My sister Myrtle says she remembers riding in the building as it was moving. It was lots of fun she remembers. The fire in the cook stove was never put

out and Mother continued serving meals the whole time.

In 1928, July 5th, Dad built a new "Hotel." (Refer to picture #3 Kinuso Hotel). My Mother kept on running the Hotel, until the end of World War II, when she sold it to H. W. Walker and Cliff Eckardt.

Besides running the Hotel, Dad was a great gardener, growing vegetables and potatoes for the Restaurant. Mother canned around a 1000 quarts every year. He was Secretary-Treasurer of the school board for many years and a Notary Public. His health failed and he went to Vernon, B.C., but came back to Alta. He died in an Edmonton hospital at the age of 74 years.

Mother retired, after selling the Hotel and built a nice little cottage where she lived until her death in October 1959. She was a hard worker and had many friends. She never turned anybody away without a meal. She was a great worker in the Women's Institute, and helped in any way she could in those hard times.

My sister Myrtle was born in the Royal Alexandra Hospital in Edmonton, June 17th, 1917. Her story will be told on other pages of this book under Doug and Myrtle McLaughlin.

Albia G. Wightman

by his daughter, Dorothy

Albi, as we all knew him, was born Oct. 20th, 1891, in Upper Bedford, in the Province of Quebec, Canada. He was the son of Darwin and Laura Young Wightman.

At a young age, after the death of his mother, he and his father and two older brothers, went to the United States to live, leaving behind in Canada, two sisters, a married sister, to care for still a younger sister.

Albi, at the age of 14 years, drove his pony from St. Johnsbury, Vermont, U.S.A. back to Bedford, and on through to Western Canada.

We at Swan River remember Albi, for a number of things. First he met Windsor Rice, who he knew in the east, on a street in Grouard: they teamed up and came down to the 'Swan River Valley.' When he saw that a 'Town' was springing up along the new railroad being built, he put up a shack and put a couple of bunks in it for people travelling through the country. Later, he put up a tent, down at the crossing beside

Walker's store and started a pool room. He then got a team of horses and started the first taxi service. He would drive people any place they wished to go. He took a homestead down by the Lake, and lived there for a few years until he decided to go east and home again. Many of our pioneers remember Albi, with friendship and respect.

Albi, came back to the United States, to Danville, Vermont, where the male members of his family had bought land and settled, in around 1920, after World War I.

In 1922, he married Eleanor Winn, and settled on her father's farm. On June 2nd, 1923, they became parents of the one and only child, a daughter, whom they named Dorothy.

Albi farmed for about 12 years, then moved into the village of St. Johnsbury, working as a carpenter, and other jobs, but his heart was in travelling, which his wife cared little about.

During World War 2, he worked as a carpenter in the Pratt Whitney Aircraft, in Hartford, Conn., for 3 years.

After the War, he returned to Vermont, and shortly after, separated from his wife, then bought a place in Barton, Vermont. He was most happy there. He enjoyed the winter months in Florida, and the travel.

His daughter (Dorothy) became a nurse, and his last days were spent in her home, where she cared for him, until his death, Jan. 5th, 1979.

He had two grandchildren and 2 great grandchildren.

More about Albia

This article from the "Chronicle" tells about Albi in the West, and tells,

A Pioneer who came back Home

BARTON — A. G. Wightman's Landing — Live Bait — Boats, is surely the least pretentious tourist spot in town. The tiny, vertical store built into a steep embankment along Route 5 on Crystal Lake opens rarely to dispense bait or an odd assortment of used household items, shoes, books, toys and gadgets that its owner picks up at auctions. Three tourist cabins rest on the shore, a picnic table sits comfortably under shade trees, and an old dock reaches tentatively out into the lake. A. G. Wightman's sign is not strictly correct. His boat sank some time ago and rests quietly on the bottom, beside the dock. A faded sign by the highway, announces that the property is for sale.

If Wightman's Landing gives the impression that its best days are History; it is orderly and neat, not at all run down. The same might be said of the proprietor A. G. Wightman himself. Mr. Wightman is 86.

"I'm too lame to bail it out," he says with a gesture to the sunken boat. But, he adds that his grandson has promised to help salvage the craft, and recalls proudly that he built it himself, years ago, of pine and cedar.

In a State that's proud of its pioneering ancestors, Mr. Wightman is the real thing. Born in Quebec, he spent his adolescence in Vermont, then headed west



Albi Wightman's Livery Barn in 1915.

where the Canadian prairies were being settled.

He found the prairies bald — “all you had to burn was chips” — and lonely. Near Moose Jaw in Saskatchewan, he found a man alone on his homestead, quite mad.

I asked him if he knew where I could find a homestead. “You can have this one”, he said. “They are all after me.” Mr. Wightman took the addled settler back to Moose Jaw with him, and headed further west. Eventually, he bought a herd of 21 shorthorn cattle, and left Edmonton, Alberta, on a trail that wound 300 miles north, to Lesser Slave Lake. Though smack in the middle of the map of Alberta, it sits above the fifty-fifth parallel. The Vermont-Quebec border is on the forty-fifth.

About half way up that trail, Mr. Wightman's partner lost track of their grub box — loaded with \$50.00 worth of enough flour, bread, butter, bacon, and eggs to get them to the end of the trail. Mr. Wightman walked 15 miles back to Athabasca Landing, and enquired after any teamsters that had just arrived from the north. That sent him on another seven mile hike, across the Athabasca River, until he finally met up with “five or six great big husky fellows, five or six feet tall.”

“I'm after that grub box you people picked up,” said Mr. Wightman. The teamsters said that they had split it with their father, but gave back what they had left. After a lot of walking and talking, he got back to his party with most of the food, and \$20.00 in cash, to make up for what was missing.

The trail led to Grouard, at the western end of Lesser Slave Lake. After considerable research, he settled on a 160-acre homestead in Swan River that cost \$10. “The funny thing was,” he recalled with a smile, “the \$10 was hard to come by.”

Mr. Wightman went to work at what he called mixed farming, raising grain, vegetables and beef. It was a frustrating time. The almost bottomless, virgin soil produced prodigiously.

“It grew anything you put into the ground,” he chuckled. “Cabbages — you couldn't reach around them. Carrots — you had to dig 'em up before they got too long. Putting in a well (for water), I dug 14 feet down and never struck enough gravel to shine my shovel.”

But drought and a collapse of the market ruined the farming business just after World War I. “Talk about hard times here,” Mr. Wightman said. “You've never seen hard times in the United States, compared to what Canada has seen.”

After working his farm for ten years, he “just walked away and left it.” He came back to Vermont to own and operate farms in Danville and later in Barton. He set up Wightman's Landing about 28 years ago.

The experience left Mr. Wightman with a love for the north. He's been back to visit four times, and hopes to go again this fall. “I liked the climate there better than here,” he said. “The cold didn't penetrate — it was a dry cold. I've seen 60 or 70 below zero that wouldn't feel any colder than 15 or 20 below here. But when it gets below 60 below, you want to stay



Albi Wightman, Matt Whitecotton, Vera and Nellie taking a Sunday drive.

indoors.”

“People felt more free, and they were more friendly, like they were glad to see you.”

He remembers the fishing with particular fondness. Though he's travelled since to Florida, California, Hawaii and the Bahamas, he said, “I've never tasted a nicer fish than the whitefish (from Lesser Slave Lake).”

Mr. Wightman seems to have been well led through life by his own strong convictions. He believes in cleanliness — “If you leave a place clean, you're always welcome back” — and hard work — “If you work for a man, you work in his interest. If you don't, he can't pay you a dollar.”

He got on well with the Cree Indians in Alberta, learned their language, shared their food and shelter.

His three rules for getting along with Indians should work in any society.

“Don't steal from them.”

“If you hire a man, pay him what you promised to pay.”

“And don't take up with married women.”

George Edward Cornell

by Loren Cornell

George Cornell was born in Stanbridge East Quebec, April 27th, 1878, and there he spent his early years and received his education.

January 1, 1918, he married Miss Sara Moore in St. James Anglican Church, in his home town Stanbridge East Quebec.

From this union 5 children were born;

Mrs. R. (Elisabeth) Dent, Victoria B.C.

Mrs. L. (Ruth) Hamson, High Prairie, Alta.

Loren, Kinuso, Alta.

Douglas, Kelowna, B.C.

Mathew, who died April 1956.

Because of a desire for adventure, when he was 22 years old in the year 1900, he came west on a harvest excursion. He returned home when both lungs became infected with T.B., but his doctor advised him to return west again and hoped this would prove



George Cornell in 1965.

beneficial. This time he spent a year on the ranch of Dr. Longeway in Montana, where he met Scott Pitzer and the two men became friends.

May 8th, 1905 — December 24, 1905.

Dad and Mr. Scott Pitzer outfitted with horses in Great Falls, Montana and came across the border at Coutts. They had five horses, three of them packed. They had a tent and a camp stove which folded up for travelling, two revolvers, two rifles and a shot gun. Dad's comments on the big Indian Reserve were interesting. Their arrival outside of Calgary coincided with the stampede. Dad and Mr. Pitzer didn't go into town to see the stampede but it would have been interesting. Perhaps they'd have seen chuckwagons just off the range; the frying pans swinging out as the wagons swing around the corners during the races. As they progressed northward the country gradually changed. The prairie gave way to sparse tree growth, then more of it. There were many ducks.

At Edmonton they stopped briefly then pushed on; the real adventure was about to begin, the old Klondyke trail over the Swan Hills.

This first time they did not succeed for they missed the trail at an early fork and never really picked it up again. Their adventure from then until Christmas was one of endurance, faith and struggle until they finally came across Pat Courtorielle and Albert Cunningham, two Indians who were responsible for bringing them out at Lac St. Anne near Edmonton.

It had to be a long wait of nearly five years before

Dad took the trail towards Swan Hills and beyond again. Then it was with the wagon expedition, Mr. and Mrs. George Moore and others of that party. Thereby hangs another tale.

Between Christmas 1905 and spring of 1910, Dad lived in Edmonton but had several trips out. One of these was in the winter of 1909-10, when he hired on with a freighter to haul supplies from Edmonton north. This route took them via Athabasca and then on the river ice up the Athabasca to the mouth of the Lesser Slave River or "Little River" as it was often referred to. From there the freighters travelled up to Lesser Slave Lake and on to what is now known as Grouard. The trail progressed west across to the Smokey River and on. I've heard Dad comment on such rivers as the Smokey for it has high banks and meant quite a climb for the teams.

Many times there would be a lot of teams heading the same way so would help each other when necessary. After a big snow fall the lead sleigh would only go a reasonable distance and then pull out and stop so another could break trail, this would be repeated until all the teams had had a try at breaking trail. Dad said the teamsters were glad when they could see other teams coming from the opposite direction, this would mean a better trail for both after they'd met. From the Smokey River the trail went to the vicinity of Grande Prairie. By the spring of 1910 the town of Grande Prairie was just being surveyed, it consisted at the time Dad first saw it of a cabin, a barn and I think one other building. Dad went as far as Pouce Coupe, B.C. with the freighter, then on to Beaverlodge and located some homesteads just west of Bear Lake. Dad intended to ranch and sell cattle to the Hudson Bay Company and incoming settlers. He had these homesteads located with the intention that he and other members of the party would take them up when they arrived in the fall.

Truly their expedition did start out for the Grande Prairie/Beaverlodge District later in 1910, but they stayed in Swan River.

Frank Clark

An Early Pioneer of 1910

Frank Clark came to the Swan River Valley with Mr. and Mrs. George Moore, George Cornell, James Harrison, and Fred Baukus in the fall of 1910, over the 'Klondyke Trail'.

When homesteads were surveyed and became available, he filed on S.E. 16-73-W5. He and Harry Walker took land side-by-side 2½ miles west of town, (where Elmer Churchill lives).

As he had been a potato grower in the East, in the State of Maine, U.S.A., it was only natural to try his hand at it here, in the Swan Valley, where the soil was so good. He grew them by the acre, and his friends laughingly called him "The Potato King of the Swan Valley".

Before the railroad came these potatoes were taken to Grouard for sale, but later were sold to outside markets. He was not the only one to grow potatoes. Many other pioneers, such as Joe Labby, Jesse Sloan, Gallaghers, Moores, etc. did the same.



Frank Clark house in 1914-15 on homestead west of town, Mrs. Ryder in yard.

Frank Clark, also had a hay camp, down at the Lake at Wahpah Point. When the railroad came through the country, he shipped this hay by the carload to many places where hay and feed were scarce, due to dried out conditions. This Valley was noted for its abundance of grass. In fact this is what first drew our early pioneers to the Swan Valley.

It is thought that somewhere around 1916-18, he went back East, where he had come from, made his home there and grew potatoes in abundance. He became 'Potato King' along the eastern states from Maine to Florida in the early 1920's.

He brought many people into the district to work for him. One such family was the Joe Ryders.

After working for him for a few years, Joe filed on land for himself and made a home in the community. Joe was a carpenter by trade and did a lot of building in this area.

John (Jack) Adams

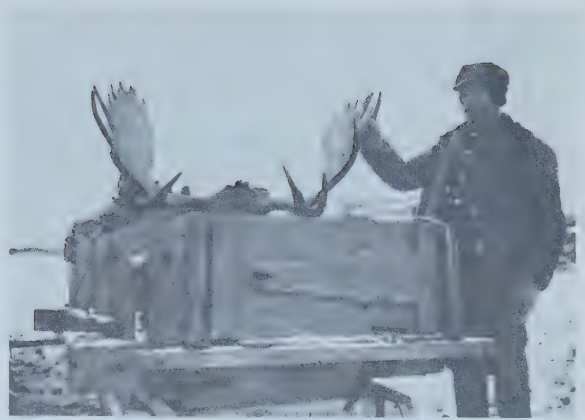
From Mrs. (Dori) Harrison notes

In the early part of 1912, Fred Stuck started north into Canada, for the Peace River country. Somewhere along the way he teamed up with a man by the name of John Adams, who was also on his way to the north.

They bought a team of oxen, a wagon, and some supplies and started over the Klondike Trail in the Swan Hills. It took them two months to come from Edmonton to Swan River. When they got this far, they were tired and the country looked good to them, especially the grass growing so high that they could hardly see over the horses' backs. They decided to go no further.

John Adams homesteaded land along Adams Creek and built a house there. Later, Mr. McNamara farmed this place. It is supposed the Creek was named after John.

In the spring of 1913, Mr. Harrison, Mr. John Adams and Mr. J. W. Ritchey purchased a 24"-42" Case Separator, and a Case 20-25 H.P. portable steam engine. They freighted it over the ice to Wapaw



John Adams (Pioneer)

Point, where it was unloaded, and pulled up the valley. The separator was a hand fed type, thus taking two men as hand cutter and a feeder. The crew that worked at each setting would be from fourteen to sixteen men. The excitement of that outfit pulling in your yard was hard to imagine. Generally the separator would be pulled with four horses or oxen, while it would take six, and sometimes eight oxen or horses to move the steamer. Sometimes over treacherous places, ropes would be tied onto the separator, and held onto by several men to avoid (if possible) an upset. There was a self feeder installed on this machine, sometime around 1924.

This is a quote from Windsor Rice's diary. Windsor arrived in the Valley March 8th, 1913. Travelling up the Valley, he met John Adams, Mr. Ritchy, Jim Harrison and Mr. Moore, going to Edmonton for their years supply of groceries. It was on this trip that they bought this threshing outfit.

After a few years, John moved down near the lake (Lesser Slave Lake). After spending Christmas with the Sangster's, he dropped dead on the road home of a heart attack.

James (Scotty) McNiel

(Scotty gave this material in 1960)

Now, we must not forget another "Old Timer," sometimes referred to as a "Young Old Timer."

James (Scotty) McNiel, was born in Scotland, in 1892, and came to Canada with his Aunt and Uncle when he was 13 years old. Through unforeseen circumstances, his Mother and Father did not come with him at this time but were going to follow. After a period of time his Aunt and Uncle went back to Scotland, leaving Scotty and his brother Tom to fend for themselves.

Scotty was a very colorful man, loving to visit, tell stories, and play the violin. Many a night was spent in dancing and partying to Scotty's music. For several years, he, Roy Field, Marie Sloan, and Bill Boyd, who played the cornet, supplied the music for most of the dances in Kinuso.

In the year 1905, when Alberta became a Province, he and his brother Tom came as far west as Pense, Sask., to find work. At this time the Grande Trunk



Scottie McNeil.

and C. N. companies were building a railroad, side by side, to the coast, but the Government bought out the Grande Trunk, because it wasn't paying off. Scotty, worked on this railroad for awhile, until he heard of the "Peace River" country. This was where work could be had for the asking, and land was free, so he heard. GO IF YOU HAD TO WALK.

Scotty packed his few belongings, and started out for the promised land. Like so many of the other pioneers, he started his trip north from Edmonton, going on to the town of Athabasca.

He said, "it was a good town and a pretty town." From there he came on the steamboat to Mirror Landing which was the junction of the Slave River and the Athabasca River, then there was a portage of 9 - 12 miles to Soto Landing. He then loaded on the "Northern Transportation" boat, to make the rest of the journey to Grouard. He said, "it took the boats a day and a night, to make the trip to Grouard," depending on the weather and how rough the Lake was.

Scotty landed in Grouard, July 1st, 1910. He said that it was a real lively town of about 1500 at this time. He stayed there a short time, and then went to High Prairie, to help cut the right-of-way for the new E.D. and B.C. railroad that was being built. They took in 30 head of pack horses, but they couldn't work, as all the rivers and a lot of the country was flooded. He refers to it as "pretty rugged."

He came back to Grouard and met J. C. Hunt, and

he went to work for him for about a month, then came to Swan River and worked on the grade here. After working for Dan Hayden and his partner Ed Green, he came back and worked for J. C. Hunt again.

He took up a homestead north of town, the N.W. 12-73 Range 10-W5th on which he proved up on. He spent the most of his life around the Kinuso area, working many winters logging. He was an excellent axe man. He also worked for Harry Walker in the store in 1915-1916.

This is a little story he told of the first train coming in to the crossing at Swan River, in front of Harry Walker's store.

A little Indian boy's first impression of the train:

Scotty, was standing in the door way of the store with Harry Walker and they were watching the first "Pioneer Train", pull into the crossing. A little Indian boy had just bought a bag of cookies from the store. His eyes bugged out when he saw the engine, and when the engineer pulled the whistle to high ball, that Indian boy panicked, and ran right between Scotty and Harry Walker, upsetting both of them. That boy didn't stop running for half a mile, and spilled cookies the whole of the way.

Tom McNiel's story will appear in a separate story.

Mr. and Mrs. Sangster

Another well known old timer was Mr. Harry Sangster, who came here in 1912, followed later by Mrs. Sangster in 1916.



Harry Sangster and Mike MacNamara.

Mr. and Mrs. Sangster located on N.E. 1/4-24-74 which is right on the edge of the lake. He was a good fisherman being raised in Nova Scotia, and they both spent much of their time at this occupation. Later they raised mink, he also kept a good sized herd of cattle and team of horses, putting up tons of hay on the lake shore. They also raised strawberries in great quantities and would hire local pickers besides imported help.



Launching of the boat built by Harry Sangster.

Mr. Sangster often took passengers across the lake in his good sized boat, in blueberry picking time so they had many forms of income and managed to make a good living.

Mr. and Mrs. Sangster were alone as they had no children, so in their later years they sold their land to Sloco McRee and retired to their former home in Nova Scotia where after his death Mrs. Sangster continued to reside until her passing in the 1970's.

Mr. and Mrs. Wilfred Laurier McKillop

Mr. and Mrs. McKillop came from St. Albans, Vermont when the lure of the Peace River country was the dream of all. Mr. McKillop, the son of Dr.

P. S. McKillop and Caroline (Hadley) McKillop was born near Montreal. Mrs. McKillop whose maiden name was Charlotte Davies, was born in Montreal Que. They were married somewhere around the year 1908 or 09 and came west as far as Edmonton in 1912 and then to Swan River Settlement in 1913 with their household effects loaded on a sleigh and pulled by horses. They were pleased with the prospects of a life in this community and filed on a homestead, this being S.E. 24-72-10-W5 and built a log house on top of a high hill, from which there was a wonderful view of the Valley and surrounding hills.

They lived on this homestead until 1922 when they accepted the position of Postmaster in the Kinuso



Kinuso Post Office 1924. Mr. and Mrs. McKillop, also showing mail cart.

Post Office, so they rented their land and bought a building in Kinuso which became the local Post Office with living quarters upstairs. Mr. McKillop also took on the Imperial Oil Agency. They remained with this until 1943 when due to ill health they sold the building to Mr. Harvie Cline who became our next Postmaster and Imperial Oil Agent.

Mr. and Mrs. McKillop then moved to Nanaimo, B.C. and retired there until Mrs. McKillop's death. Mr. McKillop then went to live with a nephew in the

Eastern States were he remained until his death. Mr. and Mrs. McKillop had no children.



Mary Lillo and Mrs. McKillop.



Left to right: Coreen Myron, Mrs. Whitecotton, Mrs. George Moore, Mr. and Mrs. McKillop, Manuel Grono, Bobby Churchill, Mr. Mallard and Hugh Turner.

Clara and Jim Grono

Written by Clara Grono Dec. 31, 1961.

Mr. and Mrs. James Grono, their four children, Cecil, Martha, Tom, and Cynthia, sold their farm in Left Dutch Settlement in Nova Scotia, to come west to take up a homestead in the Peace River Country. Jim's Mother and brother had already settled in the Swan River Valley and they hoped to make this their destination.



December 25, 1947. The Grono's
Left to right: Clara, Tom, Cynthia, Martha, Jim and Willard.

So, the 1st of February, 1913, they started their journey west, travelling by train for four days to get to Edmonton, Alberta, where Jim's sister lived. Clara and the children stayed there for a week while Jim went on to the town of Athabasca, where his brother was waiting for him. Here they outfitted, getting ready for their last lap of the trip to the Swan River Valley on the ice and snow.

They bought a team of horses, a set of bob sleighs, bed, blankets, stove, and some dishes. Jim and his brother built a caboose on the sleighs, moved the furniture in and were all ready to start again, being very comfortable because the family could ride inside the caboose. But the journey was long and hard, with the horses playing out in the deep snow. It got to be so bad, and the horses so tired, that the men would tie a rope around themselves and help the horses through snowbanks on the road. There was one good thing though, there were stopping places along the Slave Lake where the horses could be put inside at night and fed hay and grain.

So ten days travel from Athabasca, February 23, they arrived at Jim's mother's place. But within a half mile of the house, the horses could go no farther and the family finished their journey on foot through snow above their knees and 30 degree below weather.

They were all very happy to be united again and stayed there for a month or so until they could get their own land and find a place to live, since they could not get their own house up until the next fall.



Jim Grono's first home in Swan Valley in 1913.

As Mr. and Mrs. Albert Good were leaving the Valley, they were able to move in their buildings. This is on the land where Mr. and Mrs. Quinn now live.

Clara said there were only a few people and a few houses when she came. Mr. and Mrs. Moore had a yoke of oxen that she could drive, so she would hitch them up and get Mrs. Grono and they would visit other neighbors. They really seemed to enjoy the company of others this way.

On the 6th of April, after coming to the Swan River Valley, a baby boy was born to her. Willard was the baby's name. This was her fifth child. She says he was the first white baby born in the Valley. Grandma Grono was her only nurse, coming after the baby was born.

The first while they were in the Valley, they went

to Grouard for their supplies, often getting a six months supply at a time. Then Grand Gene started a store on the south side of the crossing, and a little later Harry Walker put up a tent north of the Crossing and started selling groceries. She says he only had a few things for sale such as sugar, soda crackers, salt, flour, and some can goods. Once he got some oranges in and sold them for \$1.00 per dozen. This was quite a price considering she got her eggs for 8¢ per doz., and butter for 8¢ per lb.

Times were hard, but they got along very well considering they only had \$1.65 in their pockets when they came. She says she sure sees a difference in the last 49 years. She died at 86 years. in 1971.

Don & Julia Pierce

(As told by Edna Sinclair)

Don, of Scotch and Irish descent belonging to the Mason Lodge, was born in Augusta Main in 1890.

Coming to Kinuso Don worked for the ED & BC in 1914, as a water pump man. The native people called him Mo-ni-pan-i-kew meaning Waterman.



Don Pierce's cabins in Canyon Creek.

Deciding to start his own business, Don opened a store across the railroad tracks on the Indian Reserve now known as Kinuso (meaning Fish in Cree).

In 1914 he went into partnership with Mr. Rice. Mr. Rice went overseas to fight in World War I and Don remained to run the store.



Don Pierce with his sons Donald and Victor.

Don met Julia Chalifoux and with Gene Boisvert and Sophie Benjamin they set off to Peace River to be married. Their first child, Magertte, was born here. Losing their daughter they returned to Kinuso.

In 1918 the flu struck and Don and others brought in medical supplies from Edmonton. The church was turned into an infirmary to care for the sick.

Don left for Peace River to Jackfish River where he set up a trading post. Again in 1919 the flu struck and Don helped bury the dead along with one of his children.

Gene Boisvert started his store in Slave Lake in the early 1920's and Don decided to return to Kinuso and operate his store.

Julia worked hard beside her husband. The store was part of the house but Don later built a house next to the store. Dr. McIntyre would come from High Prairie once a month and it was here that he tended his patients.



The Pierce family: Jim, Edna, Donald, George.

In 1927 Julia became bedridden with spinal meningitis. Although, confined to her bed, she kept busy making beautiful moose hide jackets, mocassins and gloves. Don shipped her handmade costumes to the United States to sell.

After Julia's illness there were hired women to do the household duties. Friends and relatives were always there to help.

Don had a big Dodge Brothers car which he took into Edmonton and had it made into a truck with a canvas cover for the back. A bed was put in here and Don was able to take Julia out. As near as Ken Thompson can figure, this was likely one of the first truck campers made in Canada.

When Don and his family were away he hired Finny Hill and Shorty McRee along with a few others to run his store.

Don was always generous with food, clothing and Christmas treats for people who were in need. Credit going out of the store put Don out of business.

Moving to Canyon Creek he built a log store and ran an auto court and a mink ranch. With his sons he also did some commercial fishing.

Julia passed away after their move to Canyon Creek leaving Don with seven children to raise. The children ran the mink ranch and the selling of mink feed.

Over the years the children married and Don moved to Prince Rupert, B.C. where he worked in a plant (Seal Cove) for a few years. Buying a home in Tofina, Don retired.

Don became ill in his late 80's and went to live with his son, Victor. Passing away in 1970 he is buried at White Rock, B.C.

Don and Julia had nine children; George, James, Edna, Elsie, Lily, Donald, Gordon, Victor, Justine and lost four children to pneumonia and measles.

Dear Friend George,

Was very happy to hear from you.

Among my happiest memories are of the days, spent with the people of Swan River, for I found them to be the friendliest people I had ever met.

As, to stories about those days, the following stand out. On one of my first visits to Swan River I got lost, for the trail in those days was not very well defined. I finished up in an Indian encampment. Understanding that the Cree for Swan River was "Wapisou Sepi" I pointed north and said, "Wapisou Sepi", and the Indians nodded and said — Ugh! Ugh! Wondering if they understood me I pointed south and again said,



Jack Spratt — 1912. Minister and Teacher.

"Wapisou Sepi"? and again the Indians nodded and said, Ugh! Ugh! Not much help, and I have always regretted that I did not point to the sky and ask "Wapisou Sepi"; and then if they had agreed I would have known that my Cree was not so good.

The most painful experience was in mid winter, when I was on the road to Swan River. When I was about seven miles out of Grouard the ice broke and horse, cutter and I, were neck deep in water. I had to take off my mitts to release the horse. Its behavior was perfect and it remained very quiet and somehow I managed to get the cutter out and the horse more or less hitched to it again but both hands were frozen solid to the middle joint. I ran all the way back to Grouard behind the cutter and the circulation began to come back to my hands. I dipped them in turpentine and they peeled within the next few days. The hands have been affected ever since when I am not the least bit cold the hands are C-O-L-D.

Again, once when I was driving home from Swan River the horse had been misbehaving and I gave it a sharp cut with the whip, it swerved sideways quickly, turned the cutter over and threw me out, and the horse started back to Swan River. I walked to the home of Mrs. Whichiwasie and was feeling very blue for the people of Swan River had given me some valuable mail to post in Grouard and had also given me a good fruit cake. I was sitting in the hut with some other Indians when one of them started to sing, Ta Ra, RA, BOOM de ay----- Boy! that cured all my blues for I was amazed to hear that song coming from an Indian in such a remote area. I just burst out laughing. The horse came back next morning, but the seat was torn off the cutter but the mail and cake was safe.

Often Captain Mathieson would let me steer the steamer across Lesser Slave Lake. The day was perfectly calm with not a ripple on the water, when without any warning a terrible wind hit the steamer and I thought it was going to turn turtle. The Captain had told me if there was any trouble to toot the whistle, before I got one toot out the Captain was on the bridge and took over. We got safely to Sooteau Landing as I think it was called but could not land as usual. The Captain rammed the steamer into the river bank, let it turn with the current and then come up into the wind and land at the dock. BOY THAT WAS SOME WIND!

My friends - - - Yes memories of Swan River are very happy and it is good to see some of you people here in Victoria occasionally.

Best wishes to all my friends the Hunts, Grono's, Silas Stuck, and many others and of course to yourself.

Best wishes,
Jack Spratt.

Clara and Thomas J. Sloan

Thomas Jefferson Sloan was born April 29, 1865 in Wanzeka, Crawford County, Wisconsin, and was the son of William W. Sloan and Elisabeth Evans. He married Clara Elisabeth Rose Solomon. Their

children were Grace who married Cager Brown, Thomas Henry, who married Nell Wayne. Oley, married Lillian Posey. Sam and Wilbur.



Tom and Clara Sloan family.
Left to right: Oley, Tom, Wilbur, Sam and Grace.

Uncle Tom and Aunt Clara, (as they became known to all their friends and neighbours), left Olds, Alberta in August, 1914 with teams and wagon. They brought 24 head of cattle, their chickens, pigs and some horses, also machinery and household effects. Coming by way of Fort Assinaboine, crossing the Athabasca River at this point, then on north over the Swan Hills to Swan Valley. Their youngest son Wilbur accompanied them with his pony which he used to herd the cattle at night. One wagon was equipped to live and cook in. They milked several of their cows, and churned butter and several times during their journey, also had their own eggs and baked their own bread as they travelled along.



Uncle Tom Sloan, Aunt Clara, Grace Brown (daughter) and sons Tom, Oley and Sam.

Late in August they arrived at the southern end of the Swan Valley settlement and Mr. Sloan took a homestead. With the help of his son they soon built a house — which was their home until Mr. Sloan's passing away in May 1933.

When they came into the valley they brought a beautiful four wheel buggy and a team of trotting horses, which belonged to Wilbur. (They were the classiest horses in the valley and could make the trip from their home to town faster than any other team, — two hours).

There wasn't any bridge on the Swan River at that time so any of the settlers wanting to cross the river had to ford, (which meant the horses would have to

swim and pull a buggy or what ever they were hitched to). In July of 1919 there had been a heavy rainfall for several days and the river was running bank full. Aunt Clara became quite ill and needed medicine badly, so Wilbur decided to take a chance on crossing the river but the current was so swift it carried them down stream and Wilbur and the horses were drowned. Wilbur was in his early twenties at the time of his death on July 7th, 1919. He was the first to be buried in the Swan Valley cemetery which he'd help build just ten days before.



Wilbur Sloan.

As a result of his death, a steel bridge was built across the river the following year. This bridge was washed out in the 1930 flood. Clara Sloan went to live with her daughter Grace in High Prairie soon after Tom's passing in 1933. Clara passed away in the High Prairie hospital in June 1954 and is buried in the Swan Valley cemetery.

Wilfred Grono

Wilfred Grono was born June 14, 1891. He homesteaded in the valley in 1912. Wilfred was overseas in the first World War along with Wilfred Hunt and a few others from 1916-18 in the 49th Battalion.

He went to Florida in 1920 with his mother and remained there. He married a widow with one daughter in 1937.

He passed away on August 21, 1970.



Wilfred Grono's homestead — 1916. Grandma Grono and Jean Moore.

Mr. and Mrs. Martin Gallagher

(An interview taken with Mrs. Gallagher, Mrs. Vera McLaughlin and Mr. and Mrs. Steve Winters on July 11, 1977)

Martin Gallagher was born in Louistown, Minnesota, in the year 1886. In the early days, he operated a store west of Edmonton at a place called Bicker Dyke. He went south to Oregon and married Margaret Ellen Crowley (born Oct. 13, 1886), on June 1, 1913. From this union there were four children born. They were Margaret, born Aug. 15, 1914, John, born June 1, 1917, Thomas, born Oct. 28, 1919, and George, born April 15, 1926.



Mr. and Mrs. Martin Gallagher who crossed the old Klondike Trail in 1913.

When the Gallaghers left Oregon, they looked for a place to start a store in several towns in the United States and B.C. They finally headed for Edmonton. On their travels they met so many people, who were heading for the Peace River Country. After buying a wagon, five horses, and enough supplies to last the winter, they started toward the Klondike Trail. They

started on Oct. 8, 1913, and reached the Swan River Valley on Oct. 28, 1913.

The route from Edmonton to St. Albert and Fort Assinaboine proved to be quite an adventure. First, at St. Albert they found a livery stable where they were able to bed down their horses for the night. Martin borrowed a sleigh to get more supplies from a small store at Fort Assinaboine, where they had first snowfall which was about four inches. They met a man by the name of Mr. Schoop here, and decided to camp three or four days. It was very tedious travelling through mud with only cordoroy poles to help. One day they drove through a mud hole on a bridge. The horse was crippled and the wagon had to be taken out piece by piece and then reassembled. This took all day until sundown. Martin had to ride on one horse ahead of the team because it balked so much and this third horse was needed to pull the wagon through the mud down hill. One day they broke the coupling and spent almost a whole day fixing that. If the weather was good they didn't have to set up a tent, but slept out in the open. Other times they set up a tent and stove so they could cook up bannock and other food. Usually they found water in the creeks along the route.

They met Joe Stone at Adams Creek (now George Robinson's), where they were able to buy oat bundles, as they had run out of feed for the horses. One of their most treasured items was a coal oil lantern which helped light first their tent and then their home over the years. It was recently stolen from their property.

They moved on up the river to Jim Harrison's where they intended to cross, but the river was too high, so they camped there until about the 1st of December. Next, they moved into John Adam's log house (later the McNamara place). Martin found his choice of homestead had been filed on, but was able to cancel that file as the fellow had not proved up on it, and had left the area. In the spring of 1914, Martin filed on this property, which his son George still farms today.

They were able to make a living freighting fruit and vegetables etcetera, from December to the following spring on a new sleigh purchased in Athabasca with an 8 x 14 caboose built to shelter themselves and store their goods.

The Indians came along the lake with their money tied in their handkerchiefs to purchase this fresh produce. Several trips were made into Edmonton for supplies and one included cases of whiskey for the people who applied for permits to purchase it, mostly around Grouard.

Mr. Gallagher died in the year 1973. Mrs. Gallagher still lives an enjoyable life in the Swan River Valley, which has been her home for a very long time.

The following stories were given by Mrs. Gallagher in 1978, at the age of 92 years. In Jan. 1979, she is still living and enjoying fairly good health.

In 1914, the Gallaghers were expecting the first of their family, so they decided that Mrs. Gallagher would go to Edmonton, to have her baby.

As they had freighted in the winters from Edmon-

ton to Grouard, the trip didn't deter them. They took a tent which they borrowed from Mr. George Moore, and some blankets and food. They crossed the "Swan River", at Labbys Crossing, and following the Lake to Sawridge, went to Athabasca and Edmonton.

Margaret, was born in August 1914. Mrs. Gallagher stayed in Edmonton, but Martin came back to the Valley. After about 3 weeks, she started home, where Martin was to meet her at "Sawridge".

Art Johns, had a boat down at the crossing, so Martin set out in it to meet her and the baby. When he got out in the "Lake", the boat stalled and he could not get it to go. Someone, in another boat found him floating around and helped him get the engine going again. By the time he got to Sawridge, there was no sign of Mrs. Gallagher.

When Mrs. Gallagher got to Sawridge, and Martin wasn't there, she didn't know what to do. She said, "the steamboat was just ready to pull out, so I just got on it, and started home". It took courage to travel alone with a new baby and all your luggage. I asked her, "Mrs. Gallagher, weren't you afraid? Oh, no, she said. I knew Martin would come after awhile."

There were two young men on the boat who were also getting off at the same place Mrs. Gallagher was, "Wapaw Point", so they helped her look after the baby and carry her luggage. When she got on shore, they made a camp. She sent word to the "Valley", that she was there and Martin wasn't long getting there to pick her up.

In 1917, Mrs. Gallagher was expecting the second of her family, and Mrs. Whitecotton was expecting Myrtle. They planned that they would both go to Edmonton together. They could go by train by this time, but it was still a hard, long, and slow trip.

When you got to Edmonton, you rented a room somewhere and waited. It might be a week or it might be a month.

Mrs. Gallagher did not make the trip as "baby John Gallagher", was born right in the "Valley".

Mrs. Whitecotton had to make the trip alone. Myrtle entered this world the 17th of June, 1917.

Coincidence — that's what happened to Mrs. Gallagher yesterday. She was in the High Prairie Hospital resting comfortably, when a couple came in to visit a patient in the opposite bed. As most visitors do, they exchanged conversation, and talked about old times. Finally, it was discovered that the man's Father had been neighbours of the Gallaghers in the early days. When they had moved away, Martin had bought their farm. Mrs. Gallagher hadn't remembered seeing them since, even though their son had married and made a home in Faust. The man's name was IRA NEW.

Windsor V. Rice

Written up from Windsor's Diary

by Ruby Rice (wife)

Windsor Rice, was born and grew up in Riceburg, Quebec, which was named after his Grandfather. The first "Rices" on record came from England to Sudbury, Massachusettes, U.S.A. in 1638. They are of

Welsh descent. His forefathers were United Empire Loyalists, and founded the little village of Riceburg.

After leaving school, Windsor went to work in the Eastern Townships bank. This bank later merged with the Canadian Bank of Commerce. He worked there for six years, but never liking inside work, he finally gave it up, and joined his uncle in Salt Lake City, Utah, in 1912. His uncle had many interests there, and could have placed him in various positions, with a good chance of advancement, but it was all inside work.

Always being interested in the Peace River country which was widely advertised at that time, GOLDEN OPPORTUNITIES, FREE LAND, and all kinds of work, his sense of adventure took over and he started out.

Arriving in Edmonton, he met a Mr. Baukus, an older man who came from the Eastern Townships, and about five miles from Windsor's home. They decided to make the trip together, and bought five horses, a sleigh, a wagon, and supplies.

They travelled from Athabasca (from Edmonton) by road, with horses and sleigh. From Athabasca they drove on the river to Mirror Landing, then up the Little Slave River, to Sawridge (old town of Slave Lake), then followed the "Trail" up the south side of Lesser Slave Lake. There were some stopping places every ten or twelve miles, where you could get feed for your horses, and food for yourself.

The next stop was Swan River Point, where "Abstennie," a resident Indian, had a stopping place. Abstennie was later Chief of the Swan River Band. There were quite a few teams of horses already in the barn, but they managed to get their's in. They stayed there all night and the next day, then they took one team of horses and crossed the river to Wapaw Point, where Frank Clark had a hay camp.

They arrived at Kinuso, (then Swan River), March 8th, 1913, and travelled up the Valley to George



Mr. Rice's house on his farm around 1913-14. Notice the log walls and sod roof.

Moore's. On the way they met John Adams, Mr. Ritchy, Jim Harrison, and Mr. Moore, (Mr. Moore also came from Riceburg, an old friend of Windsor's), going on their way to Athabasca for their years supply of groceries. On this trip, they bought a separator. I believe it was the first one in this country. John Adams brought it in the next spring, 1913, with oxen. It was run by steam. It was later owned by Larson, then by George Moore, and Windsor Rice. Windsor later bought it from Moore, did away with the steam and ran it with a tractor. I believe he still owned it at the time these notes were given to Vera McLaughlin in 1960. He said he still used it whenever he wanted to.

After visiting Moore's, Windsor and Mr. Baukus travelled to Grouard, Peace River, Dunvegan, Spirit River, Grande Prairie, and Sturgeon Lake, then back to Grouard, just looking the country over.

At that time, Grouard had two banks, the Royal Bank, and the Canadian Bank of Commerce, Revelation Wholesale, Smith Bros. Store, Hudson's Bay Store, and Varney Morris had a big store, and there were several restaurants. There was no liquor except when you got a permit to get 6 bottles from Edmonton.



Mr. Rice's oxen taking a rest after pulling a load. Notice load of feed in background — 1913-14.

They traded one wagon at Grouard for hay at 90¢ per bale, and sold it on the way, for \$2.00 per bale.

They didn't want to sell it, even at that price. Windsor stayed in Grouard, a few days, and there met Albi Whitman, who was an old acquaintance, who Windsor knew in the east, in fact he used to work for Windsor's father. They also met Dan Haydon, and Mr. Good, who later owned what is now the "Quinn Farm."

After Mr. Baukus and Windsor dissolved partnership, Windsor returned to Moore's and stayed all summer. Mr. Baukus returned to Edmonton and went into the jewellery business, which was his

occupation in the East.

On Sept. 1st Windsor Rice, George Moore, and Frank Clark, wanted to go to Grouard to file on their homestead. To get there, they hoped to catch the "big boat" on the lake. They went to Wapaw Point, and when they saw the boat coming, they went out to meet it in a row boat, but the steamer didn't stop. As their small boat was a sturdy one, they decided to go in it. There was a place for a mast, so Windsor took the canvas from his bedroll, and attached it to the boat, to make a sail, which worked very well, until the lake became very rough. Mr. Moore and Mr. Clark rowed and Windsor steered the boat with a string. The journey took two days in this manner of travel, landing at Shaws Point. Windsor filed on his land, Sept. 26th, 1913. He had to wait 13 days before he knew whether he could get it. The Government rule was that this land had to be posted for 10 days as there might be a lot of good timber along the river.

He built a log house on this land that he had filed on, 24 ft. x 30 ft., with a sod roof (he later shingled), and went to Grouard and got windows for it. He lived in this house for 3 years, living mainly off the land even though he did have some money. The Indians were very friendly to the new settlers, selling fish and moose meat; they were glad to get the money for it.



Mr. Rice pulling water from a well. Take note of rope, and pulley, and wood frame — 1912-13-14.

The soil was nice and black, with no stones, and the hay grew over the horses heads. Everyone had to go to Grouard for their mail. The mail was taken to Grouard by 'steamer'. People could flag the steamer down and go out to Wapaw Point in a row boat and take the Swan River mail off the boat. Paul Sound says he helped J. C. Hunt do this many times.

Grandejene and Christian, had the first store in Kinuso (Swan River) at that time. In 1917, Windsor and Don Pierce built a store, 26x30 ft. on the east of the road, north of the track, at the crossing. They opened for business April 1st, 1917. Matt Whitecotton bought the first articles, a neck yoke and irons.

Windsor went overseas January 1st, 1918.

In 1918, land was sold for a Village by the E.D. and B.C. Railroad. Mr. Pierce had the handling of this.

Windsor, arrived back in Portland, Maine, on a Hospital ship in March, 1919, back to Eastern Canada, where he was in St. Anne DeBelvieu Hospital, for a time, then back to his home town south of Montreal, and on June 11th, he married Ruby Beattie, and arrived here shortly before July 1st, just in time for the BIG CELEBRATION.

Mr. and Mrs. Johny Whitford

Were you born and raised in the city of Winnipeg 60 or 70 years ago? Did you like the city life where you could maybe get a job or go to a party or a game with a group of friends? Were you sure of having shelter, or did the gold rush stories get into your veins, or maybe greener lands were beckoning. Surely something must be better than living in the city. Maybe adventure was the cure.

Mr. and Mrs. Johny Whitford made a decision to leave their Winnipeg home for the adventures of the west. Coming to Alberta, they stopped at Buffalo Lake in 1904, near Stettler at the trading post there. Mr. Whitford traded furs and horses to the Indians. Still looking for greener fields, they started ranching and trading horses for cattle to build up their ranch.

In 1913, stories came that gold grew on trees in the north country. So what to do but pack up the family and go get some of the gold. Taking a team and three wagons, trailing horses and supplies, personal effects, they left on their trip northward, coming over the hills, stopping many places on the trail to eat and rest. They also had to feed and rest their horses.

One of the many stops was in the Swan River Valley. They liked the place and there was plenty of hay for the horses. It was getting late in the year, and going on, they came to Fort St. John. Here they decided to leave most of their belongings and some of the horses, they had a long way to go but went on looking for this gold.

Upon arriving at Moberly Lake, the weather was getting too cold, snow was deep, and it was hard to get feed for the horses and they had to hunt meat for themselves. They didn't have enough to eat, nearly all the horses died from not enough to eat and no shelter. The Whitfords nearly froze to death. When warm weather finally came, they made the return trip back to Fort St. John, where they had left their things. They sold everything except 20 pack horses to take them back to Buffalo Lake. On the return trip they stopped at the beautiful Swan Valley.

In 1915, Mr. Whitford took a job with the railway gang, cutting road bed. He brought along his wife and children and worked his way north. They had met up with another family, the Artingsons, who had two little girls, so they travelled together. After arriving in the Valley, the Artingsons wintered with the Hunts. In the spring, they left again to go back south.

A daughter Louise married Emil Tanghe in 1916. They farmed, and raised hay to sell. They raised a family of seven children. One of the boys, Juluis, was killed in action overseas in World War II. Mr. Tanghe



Grandma Curtis (Mrs. Tanghe).

passed away in 1930.

After a time, Louise married Olin Curtis, and they had two children, Josephine and David (Butch).

Josephine is now Mrs. David Griffin, and has three boys, Chris, Dean, and Brad. They also have one daughter, Tracey, and they make their home in Kinuso.

David (Butch), married Gloria Cline, and they have two sons, Calvin and Dwain. They live on their farm north of Kinuso near the lake.

Mrs. Curtis now lives alone in a very comfortable little house on the farm.

Jack C. Killeen

From interview with Wilfred Hunt by Steve Prichuk

Originally Jack C. Killeen came from Ireland when he was 7 years old, and with his brothers settled in Pennsylvania, U.S.A. When Jack was 16 years old he travelled to Orillia, Ontario, where he worked in the railroad yards and obtained his 2nd class Steam Engineers papers. From Ontario Jack Killeen worked his way west and eventually arrived at the Swan River settlement — KINUSO, in 1911.

Here, he squatted on the NW $\frac{1}{4}$, Sec. 5, township 74, Rng. 9, W5, before the survey came. After the survey, he acquired this land as his original homestead. At this time Jack met Wilfred Hunt and his father J. C. Hunt, and he worked for them for a couple of years. He also worked in various parts of the Province, returning periodically to his homestead to do a bit more clearing.

In 1922, Jack Killeen went trapping with Wilfred



Jack Killeen Sr.



Rita E. Killeen (Mother).

Hunt. They trapped on the Alberta - B.C. boundary, on the Sikinie Chief and Profit Rivers in B.C. They reached this trapping area through the river systems from Ft. Nelson, where the Alaska Highway now traverses. An incident of some note occurred on their trip down the Peace River, when Jack Killeen decided that he would repair the points on the coil for the boat motor, as it had not been running properly — but the points slipped out of his hands and fell into the river, needless to say, the motor ran rougher than ever, but they finally arrived at their destination no worse for wear!

In 1928, Jack married Miss Reta Mallard of Kinuso, and they moved out to the homestead and Jack settled down to farming. They raised a family of eight children, 5 boys and 3 girls, three of which still reside in Kinuso area, and the others in different parts of the Province.



Jack C. Killeen and Rita with children John, Kathleen, Cloyd and Rita.

Jack C. Killeen passed away in 1947, and his wife Reta in 1951.

In 1967, Jack Jr. sold this land to Arthur Boisvert, and Jack and his wife Norma, and their family moved to adjoining property which Jack had acquired.

As of this writing, there are 7 children. Cloyd passed away December 28, 1978.

Jack — was born in the Kinuso area. He is the oldest of the Killeen family. Jack's story will be told in later pages of this book under Jack Killeen Story.

Reta Elizabeth — was born on April 26, 1931, on the home place. She got her education in Kinuso. Reta married James Erricson on Oct. 26, 1951, and they make their home on a farm in Kinuso with their baby son Lee.

Kathleen Mae — was born on Dec. 18, 1932, on the home place. She got her education in Kinuso. Kay now makes her home in McLennan with husband Raymond Fontaine whom she married on May 21, 1971 and children Shelly, Rae, and Shirley. Kay's older sons are married with families of their own. They are Orville and wife Bonnie, and daughter Sabrina, living at Wagner. Jim and Darlene, with 3 children, living in Edmonton. Rodney and Holly with 2 children living in Hinton.

Cloyd Jeral — was born July 19, 1934 at the home-

place. He got his education in Kinuso. He married Stella Kaprowski on Oct. 19, 1956. They have 3 children, Brian, Brenda, and Rodney, making their home in Edmonton where Cloyd worked for Inland Cement until his passing on Dec. 28, 1978.

Ruth Yvonne — was born Aug. 7, 1938, at the home place. She got her education in Kinuso. She married Mike Strebchuk of High Prairie, on Aug. 26, 1957. They make their home on a farm in the Gilwood district of High Prairie.

Roy Paul — was born Jan. 2, 1942, at the home place. He also got some of his education in Kinuso and also at NAIT in Edmonton. Roy married Edna Dupuis on March 12, 1962. They have 2 daughters, Simone and Kim. They make their home in Spruce Grove and he works in Edmonton.

Lorne Kenneth — was born on July 6, 1944 in Kinuso. He got his education in Kinuso and High Prairie. Lorne married Heather Randall on August 21, 1971, and they now make their home on a farm in Sunset House area. Lorne has a truck with which he works gravel hauling, log hauling, or whatever. Lorne has 2 children, Murray and Tammy.

Kenneth Arthur — was born on July 28, 1946 in High Prairie Hospital. He got his education in Kinuso. Ken lives on a farm with Jean and the 2 boys, Terry and Rick. He has a service station in Kinuso which he operates.

Mr. and Mrs. John Swanson

John Swanson was born in the southern part of Sweden, and came to Cromwell, Minnesota in 1900. He married Liz Sloan in North Dakota.

They moved from Robinson, North Dakota to Didsbury, then on to Kinuso in 1913. They travelled by boat from Sawridge to Spruce Point, they had two children Lee, and Frances. Lee was John's stepson. They arrived at the Jim Harrison's sawmill with only \$3.50 in their pockets, with some of this they hired Armshe to take them to Mrs. Swanson's brothers place. This was Jesse Sloan's.



Earl, Liz and John Swanson.

John filed on and proved up a homestead soon after arriving.

They adopted and raised a baby boy, Earl.

John worked for Field and Patterson Saw-mills in Canyon Creek and at Spurfield, Liz cooked for the mill crew.

They moved back to the valley on to the Joe Anderson farm for awhile, then later to the McLean

place

Liz was always ready to help in case of sickness and was called on to help with most maternity cases in the valley.

Swansons moved to Vernon, B.C. in 1942, and John passed away in Sept. 1965. Liz Swanson passed away in 1976.

Orville and Lucy Hall and Family

Kentucky Hall

Still living, February of 1979, at 94 years

Told by his daughter Ella.

Orville A. Hall, (Kentucky as his friends in Swan River called him) was given the name because he went around singing "My Old Kentucky Home" all the time.

He was born October 1st, 1885, in Du. Bois County, Indiana, U.S.A. He first came to Alberta, Canada in 1907, taking a homestead at Lethbridge, which he gave up as an unprofitable venture.

In 1914, he came to Smith, Alberta to work on the big steel railway bridge that spanned the Athabasca River, for the new railway being built — the E.D. & B.C.

In 1915, he filed in Peace River for a homestead out of Kinuso on the Swan River. It was a quarter section — 160 acres. He built a barn on it and a pen for the silver foxes which he had brought with him. He had a partner, William (Bill) Gordon, who was later called to War in 1917. He went overseas to France and was victim of battle there. All the foxes were sold before he left for War.

On his land there was a one room cabin made of spruce, and a barn, which burned while Kentucky was on a bear hunting trip. He built another of hewed spruce logs and put a gable roof on it. It is thought that this log building is still standing on the same land, which now belongs to Jim Sheldon. In July,



Kentucky Hall, Bill Gordon, Mr. Perkins. Kentucky's first log house, before 1914.

1918, Kentucky married Lucy Hon Osborn who came to Edmonton for the wedding ceremony. Then he brought her to the one room shack (cabin) to live. She came from Paoli, Indiana. They raised potatoes, which he shipped to Edmonton. Later, he raised potatoes to be used for seed, and he shipped them to all parts of Alberta. He also raised grain, hay and garden produce. His wife, Lucy, helped with the

purchase of Hereford cattle, which they sold when they left in 1924.



Kentucky and Lucy Hall on their Wedding day.

Orville and Lucy had two daughters both born in Edmonton. Evelyn Beth — who died in an automobile accident, in 1971. Ella — who now lives in the U.S.A. and takes care of her father Kentucky, and is writer of this history.

Kentucky came with a wagon, a few tools, his partner, Bill and some silver foxes. He left with a wife and two daughters. The wagon was a two-seated spring model, called a "Democrat".

"Reminiscences of Kentucky Hall"

At the time of his coming to Kinuso, there were about a dozen people living in town — 3 stores, a blacksmith shop, a livery barn and a post office.

Among those living in town were; Harry Walker, Whitecottons, Fred Arnold, McKillops, Clines, etc.

Those living in the country were Jesse Sloan, Jim Harrison, Jack Adams, Joe Stone, Harry Sangster, Martin Gallagher, Kerles, the Hunts and the Moores.

One trapper, Bob Cormier, made alot of money trapping. He decided to open another store in town. He sold everything on credit. Soon he had no merchandise because the shelves were empty and he lost all his money. He went trapping again. He had about a \$1000.00 worth of muskrat furs, but it wasn't the season for trapping, so the police took all his pelts and he was broke again.

There was a grave that was thought to be on the Jim Sheldon farm. Kentucky says this about the grave "there was no grave on my place, it was a mile east of

there. It was dated in 1898. The young man was a member of a party that was travelling through on the way to the Klondike Gold Rush, they had made camp and he passed away while they were all there."

The Edmonton, Dunvegan, and British Columbia railroad ran through the town with service from Edmonton to Peace River. It was known as the E.D. and B.C.

The Vanderaegens

by Marie Beaupre and Monique Roy

At a glance any stranger could have detected the Belgian characteristics in Grandpa Vanderaegen; for example he was short, stocky, and bald. This Waloon was born in Northern Belgium on November 26th, 1869, as Emile Desplanches. His father died when he was an infant and his mother, Antoinette, married Alexander Vanderaegen when Emile was barely two years old.



Emile Vanderaegen, owner of Silver Fox Store in Swan River.

Emile was artistically inclined; he was master jeweller and designed several pieces of jewellery for the Royal Family of Belgium before coming to Canada.

SOME TIDBITS OF GOSSIP — One day as he was working on a fan for the Queen of Belgium, he had the misfortune of breaking a blade. Alarmed he told his boss, who in turn replied coolly, "Just put one less, she will never know!" Also, one fine day, he came across a huge black diamond appraised at several thousand dollars; he could not resist bringing it home to show Grandma; rather than appreciating his thoughtfulness, she told him to return it quickly to a safe where it belonged, and make sure no one on the street knew he was carrying such a valuable item.

Grandma, Marie Jeanne, who was born May 9th, 1868, of Jean de Darimont and Marie Willain was very enterprising and preserving. Her father, a well-to-do hardware importer, had sent her to school in England, and Germany, and because of this she became very proficient in English, German and French. She was her father's secretary and had natural business sense, which paid off for her in later years.

She and Emile were married in Bruxelles on August 20th, 1898.

Many factors influenced my grandparents into coming to Canada; one was the advice of the doctor, another was an experience they had in 1904, when they were in Germany: while there, they were truly shocked to find the rate the Germans were manufacturing cannons and miscellaneous arms; it was easy to predict that within a few years Europe could be at war. But, the main reason was the intense program in Europe to lure immigration to Canada.

My grandparents arrived in Montreal in July of 1905, with their only child Emilie. After arriving here, they had hoped to go into sheep raising, but were discouraged from doing so, and instead came onto Edmonton, Alberta. They became residents of Alberta before this was a Province. They filed for a homestead around Fort Saskatchewan, on the advice of one of their countrymen and proceeded to build a very nice home. This took most of their money, and one day while they were absent, another settler moved into the house. When Emile questioned these intruders being there, it was found that Emile had built on the correct quarter section, but the wrong township. Of course he lost his house, and found that his legal homestead being mostly of stone, was unsuitable for farming. Discouraged and almost penniless, they managed to buy an old house very cheaply, in the small community of Oliver, Alberta, which consisted of little more than a granary. They bought a few chickens at 25¢ each which they fattened up with grain, spilled by the side of the elevators. Grandpa also worked as a mail carrier. While waiting for the

return trip to Strathcona, he would go to the wholesalers, buy day old bread and fruits and vegetables, which in turn he would re-sell to his neighbors and friends. To advertise his goods, Emile made a sign "STORE", and nailed it on the old house, and thus with a 100 pound bag of flour, and six 10 lb. pails of Rogers Golden Syrup, they were in business. A few months later, the little store had over \$800.00 worth of groceries and dry goods. Business in North Edmonton was booming, so the family moved to Edmonton where they remained until the outbreak of W.W.I. This was a serious blow, since many customers moved away.

A short time later, the wholesale people they had been dealing with, mentioned that a store in Kinuso, Alberta, which was doing a very good business was for sale. They were warned it had only a canvas roof and four wooden walls, and was located in Indian country. So in 1915, Emile, along with Mother (Emilie) went to Kinuso and bought the store for \$21,000.00. The rest of the family joined them and soon all, became more or less fluent in the Cree language. Business was good; the Indians would come to trade their furs from as far away as Lesser Slave Lake. Marie Jeanne (Maria) was well respected and trusted by the Indians. She treated them fairly. They called her "MISTICUSO", the French Lady. Shortly



Max Vanderaegan in Kinuso with his team of goats, harness made by Bill Boyd.



Mrs. Marie Vanderaegan and daughter Lena.

after getting himself established, Emile began building a new store and a two storey building powered with its own electric plant. This was the first electricity in Kinuso.

There is a story about an Indian bringing in a silver fox to be traded. This was quite rare and caused a stir. There were three other fur buyers besides Maria, therefore Baptiste L'Hirondelle, a half breed, acted as interpreter for the Indian trapper. He went around to get sealed bids for all four buyers. Maria's bid was \$125.00 and was opened first. The other fur buyers all laughed as their bids ranged from \$25.00 to \$50.00. All thought that she had made a bad bid; she paid the Indian, and carefully parcelled the fur and sent it along to her New York fur buyers with a note saying that what she had paid was perhaps too high a price for this particular fur, and for them to try to recover what they could. Sometime later she received a letter from New York advising her not to be afraid to pay a good price for such a beautiful fur and a cheque was enclosed for the amount of \$350.00; therefore the store was renamed the "Silver Fox". Business went well however, the influenza of 1918, wiped out a large part of the Indian population. Maria, Emile, and their children tried to help the Indians as much as they could. The older children remember helping to remove the sick from their tents and taking them to the make shift hospital in the church. Maybe this is what inspired Emilie and Pascaline (Lena) to become nurses.

SOME INTERESTING DEVELOPMENTS:

In summer, when the family would go to the lake, a distance of approximately five miles, they would "ride and walk". As they owned two bicycles, two people would ride a third of the way and leave the bikes there and walk the remainder of the route. Of the four others that had walked, when they came to the bikes, two would ride another third of the way to the lake, and finally when the two had walked all the distance, and came to the bikes, they would ride the last third, consequently all six would arrive at the same time.

In 1929, the family sold the store in Kinuso and moved to High Prairie, where they opened quite a large General Store (Red and White).

THE CHILDREN:

1. Emilie (Lilly) — born September 5, 1901, married Edouard Cimon on January 4, 1927, in Kinuso, Alberta. They had three children: Charles, Marie, and Bernadette. Lilly resides at Villa Beausejour in Falher, Alberta.

2. Pascaline (Lena) — born May 11, 1906, married to Leopold Roy on September 9, 1929, in Kinuso, Alberta. They had ten living children. Lena died in Armstrong, B.C., July 1, 1961. Leo and most of the family have settled in Vancouver or other parts of B.C.

3. Leopoldine (Dojie) — born July 13, 1909, married Onezime Landry, June 20, 1938. They have two children, John and Jeanette. Dojie and Zim live in High Prairie, Alberta.



Left to right: Dojie, Evelyn and Max Vanderaegen and relatives.

4. Max — born August 4, 1913, married to Evelyn Webber, August 12, 1936. They have five children: Edward (Bud), Yvonne, Denise, Bill, and Bob. Max died October 25, 1970. Evelyn died February 16, 1976.



Left to right: Mr. Cimon, Max and bride Evelyn, Dojie, Lily and daughter.

As the years advanced, Emile spent more time of his life painting, and wood carving. He also played several musical instruments, and enjoyed stamp collecting. Because of his many hobbies and especially because of his artistic nature, he was quite content to let Marie run the business which she did very competently. Even after retiring, Marie's mind kept her active with real estate, with stocks, and also helping out in the store.

Emile died in High Prairie on March 10, 1951, at the age of 81. Marie died on May 17, 1955 at the age of 87. Both are buried in the Donnelly cemetery.

The Vanderaegen Family

Emile and Marie Vanderaegen came from Edmonton to Kinuso (then known as Swan River), in 1914 (the year following the E.D. and B.C. railway), with their four children: Emily age 12, Lena age 8, Leopoldine age 4, Max age 1. They operated a trading post (lumber walls and tent roof). Fur buying was the way of life. The parents are now deceased. Emily (Mrs. E. Cimon), lives in Donnelly, Lena (Mrs. Leo Roy) deceased, Leopoldine (Mrs. O. Landry) teaches school in High Prairie. Max operated a hardware store in High Prairie.

Following is an excerpt taken from a letter which was written by Max Vanderaegen (their son), about the early times:

"In the early 20's, Dad set up a fish buying camp at which is now the beach on the Lesser Slave Lake, and operated it for several years. I will never forget the milk goats he bought from Fred Freeborn. I used to hitch them up to a homemade wagon or sleigh. The late Bill Boyd had made a fine set of harness for me. He was the local shoe and harness maker. I have many fond memories of Bill Boyd. Along with his harness shop, he pioneered the movie industry in Kinuso and High Prairie (silent movies of course). I used to take tickets for him and see the show free. Again in the 20's, the folks built a brand new store (living quarters upstairs), across from the Roman Catholic church as it sits now in Kinuso. They even had Charlie Schurter (still living in Slave Lake) install electric lights operated by a 32 volt delco plant in the cellar (no basement in those days as cement cost too much).

Looking back now at the hardships my folks went through, I wonder how they stood it. Mother was the daughter of a hardware wholesale importer and exporter in Belgium. Dad was a jewel setter for a firm in Brussels."

According to the information received here, the Vanderaegen's sold their new store in 1930 and left Kinuso.

Mr. and Mrs. Albert Foley

In 1915 another settler arrived, namely Albert Foley and wife Mary (L'Hirondelle) with young son Patrick and Mr. Foley's nephew Edward Beauchamp. Coming from Lac La Nonne with wagon and horses, they came over Swan Hills following the old Klondike Trail.



Lou and Agnes Foley.

They filed on a homestead north of where Swan River town was beginning to take root, and lived there for a couple of years, during this time Edward came to the Valley school on horseback approximately nine miles.

Mr. Foley was hired by the Forestry Dept. as Forest Ranger and they moved to the south end of the Valley where the Range station was situated.

Another son was born to the family shortly after their arrival in the district. This was Lou, who grew up and received his education at the Valley school. Later he joined the army in the second world war and was one of the local boys that did not return.



Albert Foley, Pat and Lou.



Mrs. Albert Foley and grandson Henry.

In 1917 a daughter Agnes was added to the family, Agnes also grew up and received her education at the Valley school. Later she married Bill Wilson of Dunstable, Alberta and now resides in Swan Hills.

Mr. Foley served on the Forestry for twenty-six years, patrolling many miles of trails through swamp, heavy timber, swollen rivers and surviving other hardships too numerous to mention.

In 1943, while returning home from attending a Forestry meeting in Edmonton, Albert Foley passed away very suddenly before reaching home.

The Pooles **1913**

by Vera (Whitcotton) McLaughlin

Albert and Mary Poole, ran a photography business in Edmonton, Alberta, but hearing so many people talking about the Peace River Country, they became enthusiastic, and decided to try pioneering.

In 1913, they finalized their plans by buying 2 oxen, a yolk, a wagon, a tent, and anything they could load up for a new home, and started for the North. It's not known why they chose Swan River but it's most likely the fact of the Lake and the fishing and the abundance of grass.



Wanda Poole, daughter of Albert and Mary Poole.

They had a small daughter by the name of Wanda, which must have found the hardships of travelling that many miles behind oxen very tiring, but she came through it very well.

In Swan River, they filed on S.W. 15-73-10-W5th, which later became the Cail place, and later still the Jimmie Churchill farm.

Like all other pioneers, they put up a log house, log barn, and log ice house, making a living by fishing in the summer on the Lake, and hauling fish by team and sleigh, to Menzie's fish plant in the winter.

They milked a cow, had some chickens, and with plenty of wild meat, and fish which they caught from the Lake, they made a good living.

Things went well for them until the Flu Epidemic in 1918. Mary had gone to Edmonton for a short visit, and Albert stayed to look after the home, and keep the fires going. He became sick with the flu, and lay in bed for quite a few days before anyone could realize how sick he was. By the time Matt Whitcotton found him and brought him to the rooming house, it was too late. He died there, as the closest doctor was at High Prairie, and could only have come by speeder down the railroad track. There were too many sick people there for him to leave and make the 50 mile trip to Swan River.

Mary, with her daughter Wanda, moved back to Edmonton, selling off everything they had accumulated.

Pat & Racheal Courtorielle

(As told by Racheal Courtorielle)



Pat and Racheal Courtorielle.

Pat, one of seven children, was born February 15, 1878 in Onoway to Louis Burle and Sophie (Belcourt). Name was later changed to Courtorielle.

Racheal, one of eleven children, was born June 15, 1887 in St. Albert. Racheal's father was Simon Frazer brother to Colin Frazer, a fur trader who came up the Frazer River with Lord Simpson in approximately 1880.

Pat and Racheal were married in 1904 in Leduc, Alberta. In 1914 travelling by horse and wagon they moved to Kinuso where Pat operated a pool room next to Harry Walker's Store. The pool room was a tent boarded all around and was called "Pat's Pool Room."

Giving up the pool room business Pat worked at a number of jobs during the summer months. As a section foreman for the railroad for a number of years, for the Department of Highways and also did some fishing. Racheal recalls travelling by horses on the lake in the winter to sell fish in Faust. On one trip one of her horses broke through the ice and fell into the lake. Quickly untying him she was able to pull him out of the water.

During the winter months Pat worked his trapline in the Swan Hills area selling his furs to Harry Walker. Racheal often accompanied her husband on trips to his trapline. In 1935 they were caught in a big flood while on the trapline and stranded on a hill for two weeks. They saw horses, cows and chickens floating down the river. Pat continued to work his trapline until his death at the age of 82.

Racheal was very expert at tanning moosehides and sometimes could make as many as four hides in one day. She made clothing from the hides, beading them and selling them to Harry Walker and others in the area. Racheal also worked for the Whitecottons for many years.

Pat moved his family to Canyon Creek, built a log house and went to work for the mink farmers. During the winter months he and his family still worked his trapline. On one of his trips Pat and his partner, Albert Cunningham, found George Cornell who was lost in the hills.

Racheal has been making the trip to the Lac St. Anne Pilgrimage for 74 years and often recalls the days when the trip was made by horse team through a small trail in the Swan Hills.

One of Pat's favorite pastimes was playing the fiddle. He often played for dances in the area.

Pat and Racheal had 9 children; Leo, Ronald, Sarah, Margaret, Frank, Mable, Nora, Edward and Myrtle.

Leo, Ronald and Frank are deceased. Leo had four children; Walter, Margaret, Calvin and Cheryl. Ronald had ten children; Marina, Ronald, Lily, Delphine, Alfred, Terry, Eddie, Roy, Bridget and Bernadette. Frank had four children; Joyce, Deward, Danny, Myrtle.

Sarah resides in Edmonton and has one child; Frank.

Margaret resides in Slave Lake and has four children; Nora, Leona, Dickie and Gordon.

Mable resides in Slave Lake and has ten children;



The Pat Courtorielle family. Top: Mable. Middle: Eddy, Margaret, Nora. Front: Sarah, Myrtle.

Cecile, Margaret, Leo, Claudie, Elsie, Vera, Alex, Jackie, Bertha and Victor.

Nora resides in Slave Lake and has three children; Edna, Paul and Patty.

Eddie resides in Canyon Creek and has six children; Kim, Biddy, Holly, Patrick, Wade and Joanne.

Myrtle resides in Canyon Creek and has seven children; Gerald, Barbara, Faye, Pearl, Peter, Dale and Gale.

Racheal, now 91 years old, lives with her daughter Myrtle in Canyon Creek.

St. Germaine (Zerma) Courtorielle

(As told by Zerma Courtorielle)

Zerma was born in Slave Lake on December 28, 1897 to Sophie (Giroux) and Julius known to everyone as "Wahpah" meaning "narrows." Zerma has five brothers — Norbert, Rodger, John, Oliver, Pete and three sisters — Louise, Suzanne and Jennie. The family lived at Wahpah Point where their father had a



St. Germaine Courtorielle playing his violin.

Stopping Place for many years.

Zerma attended school at the Grouard Mission for a few months, leaving to help his father with the farming and doing various chores around the Stopping Place.

Zerma learned to play the violin at the age of 15, playing with his brothers for many dances and family weddings. He bought his first violin for \$30.00. He also enjoyed playing the banjo.

In his early twenties he married Mary Willier, but lost her when she passed away after coming down with the flu.

Zerma did some farming and had a few head of livestock. He sold oats to the Hudson Bay Co. for \$5.00 a sack. During the winter months he trapped and hunted, selling his furs to Harry Walker. He recalls one hunting trip with Bernard Potskin when they brought back three moose.

For a time he did some freighting with his brother Norbert. Using three teams they made trips to Trout Lake and Wabasca.



St. Germaine and Nellie Courtoielle with one of their grandchildren — 1974.

In 1934 he married Nellie Nome, daughter of Edward and Harriet Nome. Nellie was born August 31, 1907 at Westlock, Alberta. She has five brothers



St. Germaine and Nellie Courtorielle's family gathering in the summer of 1974.

— Ted, Alex, Jasper, Joe and Louis and one sister — Racheal.

Zerma and Nellie had six children — Gordon, Yvonne, Dinah, Annie, Bernice and Robert.

Gordon, Councillor for four years and Chief for six years for the Swan River Band, married Doris Dumont and lives in Kinuso with their five children — Deborah, Lynn, Gordon, James and Sharon.

Yvonne lives in Kinuso with her eight children — Morris, Vivien, Tina, Gale, Terry, Jacqueline, Bonnie and Kim.

Dinah lives in Kinuso with her three children — Leon, Gwen and Laura.

Annie married Richard Davis and lives in Kinuso with their three children — Cheryl, Ellen and Dale.

Bernice lives in Edmonton with her two children — Micheal and Brent.

Robert, the youngest, lives in Kinuso with his parents.

Zerma is now 82 years old and still very active.

Annie & Bob Isenor

Bob and Annie arrived in Swan River in 1913, travelling by caboose and horses which was on a sleigh. Settled in Swan River, they were mixed farmers. In later years Bob sold out in an auction sale then moved to B.C. Annie remained, she continued farming. Annie passed away in May, 1957.



Mr. and Mrs. Robert Isenor.

H. W. Walker

Harry and Olive Walker and Family

by daughter "Joyce"

Harry Walter Walker, better known as H. W. Walker, was a man with a vision. He looked in the future and saw a beautiful valley, filling with settlers making their homes and a nice little town springing up in the heart of the community.

Harry was born July 12, 1882, in Louisville, Kentucky. His family had a dairy business and as a child, he along with his father and brother, delivered milk from door to door. The milk was put in a large tank, and was drawn around by horses. People had their own containers and came and filled them from the tank.



Harry Walker on way to Swan River about 1911-12, as a surveyor.

He grew up in Louisville and got a good education there but always said he was going to make his home up north when he found the right place.

About 1903 he came to Canada and worked for a survey company under Jack Tempest, which eventually took him to Alberta and the railway as he was on the survey crew, surveying for the railroad called E.D. and B.C. going through to Peace River, now known as N.A.R.

When he got as far as Swan River he said that this was "it" and immediately fell in love with the country; the Swan Hills to the south and Lesser Slave Lake to the north.

At this time he quit the crew and filed on a homestead; the S.W. 16-T73-R10 W5th, 3½ miles west of town beside Frank Clark and built a log cabin. Anyone working for the railroad could buy groceries from the cache so he bought extra. In his daughters words, "he had a box of groceries, socks, and a few pots and pans, etc., which he rested his feet on, as he read and sold or traded his wares with the Indians and whites."

In 1914, when more people were coming and making their homes along the Swan River, he decided he wanted to be where the action was, so he loaded his groceries on to a wagon and put a tent over them and moved to the Boothman place on the Valley road. A few months later when the railroad came through, he moved down to the crossing in town. That winter he put up a log store and moved in.

In 1915-16, when it was possible to get lumber

(Jim Harrison and Jack Adams had a sawmill) he put up a large double storey frame store with living quarters upstairs. He ran his store business there until 1918-19 when lots were sold on the new townsite. He built a new store on the corner lot across from the station and moved all his groceries into it and then he moved the empty store over on the townsite and made it into a hotel. Beside it he built a smaller building and rented it for a "Royal Bank," but in 1919 or 1920, the hotel and bank both burned down.

He did a thriving business buying and selling with the people; this was necessary as there wasn't a payroll of any kind and it was a long way to markets. One of the biggest trade he had was in furs, buying them from Indians and whites and either shipping them out or selling them to fur buyers. Then there was the potatoe market; these were bought and shipped out by the car load. In the dry years in southern Alberta and Saskatchewan, he bought baled hay and shipped that out. Later when the farmers grew more grain he bought that and shipped it out until the elevator was built. He also took contracts for railroad ties and telegraph poles and paid men to cut and deliver them.

When Mr. Grandjene sold out to the Vanderageens, Harry Walker took over the Post Office from them running it for years until he gave it over to the McKillops. (exact date not known)

He took an active part in community affairs such as July 1st celebration, Chamber of Commerce Board, Kinuso School, and finally the United Church.

In 1918, he married Olive Shelton.



Olive and Harry Walker.

Olive Shelton Walker was born October 5th, 1901, in Olive, Oklahoma, U.S.A. Her parents were Warren Shelton, and Clara Smith. Her Father was a school teacher but passed away 2 months before she was born. After her husband's death, Clara Smith Shelton moved with her family north. There she met Mr. Beagles and married him. They moved to Athabasca and bought land, living there for awhile. In 1913, they decided to come still farther north and take a homestead. They had met people like the Gallaghers, Jack Adams, Art Johns, Charlie Pickford and Charlie Schurter, who told them about this country. So, in the fall of 1913, they came as far as "9 mile Point," and ran a stopping place there until the spring of 1914, then Mr. Beagles filed on a homestead in Swan River where they built a nice log home and Olive lived with her parents.

Olive and Harry Walker were married in 1918 and made a very comfortable home above the new store Harry had built, until 1921 when they built a new home on property on the south end of town. Here Olive kept a beautiful home and still found time to help her husband in the store.

In 1955, the Walkers retired and sold the store business to "Karpa Bros." They moved to Vernon, B.C. and built another beautiful home but after a few years wanted to be closer to their children, moved to Victoria where Harry died in 1958.

Olive and Harry's children are:

Douglas — who joined the Army and took electri-

cal training.

Marian — who married Cliff Eckardt, and lives in Victoria.

Joyce — who married Earle Antonson and lives in Sooke, B.C.

Bill — who joined the R.C.M.P. in 1954.

Mrs. Walker (Olive), still lives in Victoria in a lovely apartment close to her 2 daughters, Marian and Joyce, and where the grandchildren visit from time to time.

Walkers Store



A wonderful place was Walker's store

The kind we used to see,

Where we carried our baskets of new laid eggs

And traded them off for tea.

For sugar and salt, and laundry soap,

For needles, and nuts and nails,

For muslin, matches, and underwear,

And buckets and pans and pails.

We liked to trade at Walker's store,

Where the homesteaders came in flocks,

With rolls of butter so fresh and new,

To barter them off for socks,

For candy, and cakes, and chicken feed,

For shovels, and shoes, and beans,

For indigo and sapolio

And molasses from New Orleans.

It was great to trade at Walker's store,

The staple lines of goods,

Where overalls and hand-me-downs

Were kept with the breakfast foods,

With home grown foods and calico,

With goods for the gingham frocks

With plows, and pumps, and garden tools,

Along with bolts and locks.

If you have never dealt at Walker's store

You've missed a lot I see,

And the folks who have, will bear me out,

I think we'll all agree

A wonderful place was Walker's store,

As it stood in the days of old,

Where we traded our fox and muskrat hides,

For the merchandise he sold.

By Milo Brian



Bill Walker in the Mounties.

Joseph (Joe) Stone

Written by Fred Dumont

As of this date, 19/2/1979, Joe is a guest of the J. B. Wood Nursing Home. He celebrated his 93rd birthday on January 17, 1979.



Joe Stone celebrating his 90th Birthday, January 17, 1976.

Joseph Stone was born in Allegheny County, State of Pennsylvania, U.S.A. on January 17th, 1886. At an early age he left home, and worked as a kitchen flunky in Chicago, as a cook in North Dakota. In 1909, he joined the U.S. Marines, and shipped out on the U.S.R.C. THETIS, as an able seaman. During his stint as a sailor, Joe mastered the art of boxing. It is claimed "he could lick anyone, anytime!"

In 1911, Joe was honorably discharged from the U.S. Navy, and shipped out from Seattle, Washington, heading for Alaska, and the gold mines. However, he jumped ship in Victoria, B.C., to work on a construction gang, building a new railroad on Vancouver Island. Then he worked on a power plant project near Mission, B.C., until the spring of 1912. He left Vancouver about then, and he arrived in Edmonton on "April Fool's Day", 1912. He had a stake, so he bought horses, a wagon, and provisions to pioneer, and homesteaded in the Peace River country. He started over the old "Klondike" trail. Here he met other Americans, e.g. Gallaghers, Sloans, and Hunts making their way over the Swan Hills. He homesteaded on the quarter of land presently owned by the Robinson family. Joe sold that land to D. H. Hunt, to pay off a mortgage he owed.

He freighted during the winter, and raised a few pigs, and cattle during the summer. In 1925, he traded three cows, and a horse for a Model T. Ford car. His Model T. can be seen in the background of the picture of a "Swan Valley Picnic", taken on July 19, 1925.

Joe was a colorful character, always willing to help others. The Kinuso Sports days provided a centre

stage for Joe, who led the parade with his car which he called "The Bluebird", always aiming his head over the radiator cap, to keep the car on the road. Joe and his car went separate ways in 1966, when Joe moved from his "shack" on the acreage south of the "Village of Kinuso", to the Retirement Home at High Prairie, where he has resided ever since.

He celebrated his 90th birthday while a resident of the "Pleasant View Lodge".

Joseph Stone

I, Joseph Stone arrived in Canada at Victoria, B.C. in spring of 1911. I think about first of May, I do not remember exact date. I shipped with other men, from Seattle Wash. U.S.A. in spring of 1912 to work on construction work, building a new railroad on Vancouver Island, B.C.

I also worked for Purcey & Henderson Contractors on Stave River not far from Mission, B.C., building a Power Plant and Dam. I worked in that work most of 1911 until the Spring of 1912.



Finny Hill, Eva Hill, Wilfred Hunt, Jesse Sloan, and Harry Hunt, riding in Joe Stone's Bluebird.

I left Vancouver, B.C. and arrived in Edmonton, Alta. about first April 1912. I bought horses and wagon and provision to pioneer and homestead in the Peace River Country, I started over the old Klondike trail.

"This is Joe's own biography, written about 10 years ago. He didn't quite get it finished."

August Sound

August was born to Samuel and Theresa (Giroux) on January 10, 1904 in Kinuso. He often visited his



August Sound on his farm in 1946.

grandfather, Felix Giroux (Ups-chi-ñe-se) who owned a supply store in Assineau. These supplies were brought in from Edmonton on the York boats. He remembers the York boats using 16 men to oar the boat. Later on, the steam boat was used for hauling these supplies.

At the age of five, August travelled on the steam boat taking him to school in Grouard. He left Grouard and continued his education in Jousard. When he left school August helped his father with the farming.

All the work on the fields was done mostly by hand. After the grain was cut, they gathered the grain into small bundles. Then they would pound the bundles, separating the grain from the stalks. They put all this grain on a blanket, and on a windy day they would throw the grain in the air and this way the chaff was separated from the grain. This grain was feed to milk cows and horses.

At the age of 16, August went to work on the railroad in Kinuso. He was first man for 5 years. When he left the railroad, he worked at Canyon Creek in a logging camp and sawmill.

August married Louise Pötskin, April 18, 1934, then August moved to his farm in Kinuso. They had one daughter, Helen born on the farm. In the summer times he did his farming and in the winter months he trapped. Worked at Field's sawmill and hauled food and clothing goods by horse teams to Wabasca.

While August was away, Louise looked after the farm. She sewed clothing from moose hides that she tanned and she did bead and embroidery work. She sold coats for \$25.00, vests \$5.00, gloves \$1.50, moccasins \$2.00, to Walker's General Store and Pierce's store.



Louise Sound and daughter Helen standing beside their log house in 1939.

August was a councillor for the Swan River Band for one year. In 1936, he became the first chief for the Band and held this position for 10 years. As a chief, it was August's duty to distribute food and clothing rations to the people. He organized the hand games

and tea dances for the First of July celebrations. He also held dances at the U.F.A. hall.

August quit Treaty in 1946, then moved to Assineau and worked on the railroad. In 1952, he moved back to Kinuso and worked on the railroad. In 1961, he worked for Imperial Lumber in Kinuso and then he retired.

In 1977 August's wife Louise passed away. Their daughter Helen lives in Edmonton and has 8 children. Darlene, Charlene, Morris, Micheal, Maxine, Melvin, Pearl, Lonnie.

August is now 75 years old and lives with his great-grandson, Gordon Nadeau.



August and Louise Sound's grandchildren: Micheal, Melvin, Morris, Maxine, Pearl, Charlene, Darlene, Lonnie and Sherry.

Duffel Sowan

Duffel was born to Samuel and Theresa (Giroux) on August 10, 1906 in Kinuso. Duffel got some of his schooling in Jousard. When he left school he helped his father with the farming.

Duffel married Nancy, daughter of Benjamin and Isabel Giroux. They moved out to his farm where he did some farming in the summer and trapping in the winter time.

Later they moved to Canyon Creek. Duffel then worked at a sawmill in Assineau. He did an assortment of other jobs around Canyon Creek such as: haul water and wood to the people, hauled fish for mink feed to the mink farmers. Freight fish from Whitefish Lake to Canyon Creek.

He also worked at the fish hatchery in Canyon Creek. He would haul small fish by team and take them to Assineau, Wagner, Widewater and dump them into the water. He also hauled wood for the steam engine in the hatchery.

Duffel was hired to take 2 nurses and the police, to take some blood tests from the natives in Wabasca. They went by horses in the winter time. They had to camp outside one night — he said it was quite cold.

Duffel and his family moved back to Kinuso in



Duffel and Nancy Sowan.

1957. Here Duffel worked for Jack Perren skidding bam. He also worked for farmers, Dept. of Highways and did some fire fighting in the hills.

He was a wild horse rider for the July 1st rodeos. He would help round up wild horses at the lake and bring them into town for the rodeo.

Duffel was also a councillor for the Swan River Band for 4 years — from 1960-1963.

Duffel and Nancy have 11 children: Vincent, Leo, Pete, Bobby, Florence, May, Chester, Mary, Ruben, Roy, Jean. Pete, Chester and Roy are deceased.

Roy was a very talented young man and extremely well known for his ability to sing. He played guitar with his brother Bobby who was also well known for playing the fiddle.

Vincent resides in Edmonton and has 8 children: Yvonne, Agnus, Lawrence, Gary, Judy, Freda, Brenda, Barbara.

Leo resides in Valleyview and has 8 children: Linda, Eunice, Leola, Denise, Carol, Margaret, Maggie, Dorothy.

Pete had 3 children: Leland, Glenna, Joanne.

Bobby resides in Kinuso and has 4 children: Peter, Lynn, Penny, Danny; Bobby owns and operates R.L. Sound Construction Ltd. "digging basements".

Florence resides in Valleyview and has 4 children: Fred, Deeann, Terrance, Terry.

May resides in Edmonton and has 2 children: Brian, Maime.

Mary resides in Regina and has 2 children: Duffy, Rhonda.

Ruben resides in Valleyview and has 2 children: Shelly, Ruben.

Roy had 5 children: Gale, Roy, Wade, Victorine, Daren.

Jean resides in Edmonton and has 3 children: Carrie, Darrel, and Stevie.

Mr. Russel Patterson

Mr. and Mrs. Russ Patterson (brother-in-law of Finnie Hill) came from Nova Scotia and homesteaded the N.E. ¼-2-73-10-W5 in 1913, they built a log house on this property where they resided for the next few years, they later sold to Harry Hunt.

In 1915, Russ started the first blacksmith shop in the community, as he was an excellent blacksmith and there was plenty of repairs to be made and horses to be shod each winter. His shop was located about where the graded road goes to what was known as the wagon bridge across the Swan River. He was joined by his brother Raymond who worked with him for a year or two.



There were four children born, Alvin the eldest, Elsie and then twin girls, one of which died in infancy



Eva Hill with sister-in-law Sadie Patterson.

and Loleta the surviving twin. After the death of Mrs. Patterson (Sadie), Russ remained here for awhile before venturing into what became a thriving enterprise in partnership with Mr. John W. Field in the sawmill business. They had small mills at various locations before locating at what became known as Spurfield, which is about eight miles west of the town of Smith. This lumber business was known as Field and Patterson Lumber Co. They operated for many years until both families retired to Vancouver Island.

Emile Tanghe

Emile Tanghe was born in Ruddervorde, Belgium,

on April 21, 1885. He immigrated to Canada in 1906 at the age of 21. He worked for the railroad for several years, starting at the east coast soon after coming to Canada and gradually worked his way west. He was living in Kinuso when he met Louisa Whitford, who was at that time living in Faust. They were married in 1915. He quit the railroad, bought land and started farming.



† TER ZALIGER GEDACHTENIS
van
EMILE TANGHE :-
Echtgenoot van LOUISA WITHFORD

Emile Tanghe, taken shortly before he was killed in January 1930 at the age of 45.

They had four boys, Reg, Julius, Joe and Fred. Then they had three girls, Rema, Jessie and Viney. He bought land in Kinuso and Faust, one being the

farm that Frank Madison now owns and resides on.

His tragic death in January, 1930, left his widow Louisa, with six children and one on the way. Viney was born in June, 1930. Reg, the oldest, was 13 at the time.

His second son, Julius, was killed in action during World War II, 1943, in Italy.

His two youngest daughters, Jessie and Viney visited his homeland in 1974. His youngest brother and wife were still alive and well at the time they were there, but have since passed on.



Joe, Fred and Rema Tanghe, taken in 1935 or 36.

Jessie and Viney went through the house he (Emile) was born in and could hardly believe that a house that old could be in such good condition.

He has several nieces and nephews in Belgium. Two came to visit in Canada in 1976, Cyriel Tanghe and Jill, his wife.

August (Eustache) Chalifoux

As told by Frank Chalifoux

August was born in Kinuso on June 18, 1894, son of Jean Chretien (Iamsees) Chalifoux and Nancy (nee Hamelin). August has one sister, Anna McRee of Kinuso.

August's father, Iamsees, had a supply store and stopping place where they lived at Swan River point. August spent his earlier years helping his father with the stopping place. They did a bit of farming as they had a few horses and cattle. They also did some fishing and sold them to Whitecotton's Restaurant and to



Louise Tanghe holding Joe; Reginald and Julius in front.

other people living in town.

In 1922, August married Mary Willier and made their home in Kinuso. August began farming on his own, his father died of the Flu in 1918. August and Mary had five children: Justine, Johnny, Jeremie, Frank and Elsie. Mary passed away in July of 1935.

After his wife died, August moved to Sucker Creek where he worked in sawmills for Brassard and for Howard MacRae. He also did some logging on the reserve.



Helen and August Chalifoux.

In 1940, August married Helen, daughter of Joseph and Veronica Jacknife. Helen was born in Buffalo Lake on July 18, 1898. Helen was one of five children. Her first marriage to Henry Cunningham lasted two years, as he died of T.B. in the spring of 1925. Henry and Helen had one daughter, Elizabeth. Henry did not live long enough to see his daughter born. After Henry died, Helen made her living by housekeeping for various people, tanning moose hides and making canvas tents.

When Helen was ten years old her father gave her a sewing machine. At the age of thirteen, she made her own confirmation dress. She also made wedding dresses, quilt blankets, clothes for all ages, and moccasins, gloves, vests and coats from tanned moose hides. She was a very well known seamstress. Helen was also a midwife for many women, she often worked with Julianne Twin.

In 1941, August and Helen moved to Kinuso where August began farming again. In the winter months August did a lot of trapping and hunting. He went quite often on these hunting trips with his friend



Helen Jacknife, age 13, wearing her Confirmation dress that she made — 1911.

Bernard Potskin. They sold their pelts to Harry Walker.



August and Helen Chalifoux with their sons Freddie and Charlie.

August and Bernard did some guiding in the Swan Hills area. They took out some Americans grizzly bear hunting and they got four grizzly bears. They also took out some Police from Peace River and they got two grizzly bears. August helped Bernard on two different occasions to search for people who were lost in the bush. It took them four weeks to find the first

man lost and one week to find the other man.

August and Bernard also worked for the Forestry. They hauled food and supplies by pack horses to the tower men in House Mountain. Sometimes it was hard going, as there was no road and also sloughs and creeks were difficult to cross because they were flooded.

August did quite a lot of freighting. He hauled supplies by horse teams from Edmonton to Wabasca, Whitefish and Sturgeon Lake. He also hauled from Slave Lake to Peerless Lake and Fort Vermillion. On his return trips he would bring back fish and take them to Edmonton to sell. Sometimes August would be away from home two or three months. August travelled with other freighters and as many as 16 teams were used to haul this freight.

August's sons, Jeremie and Frank, went along with him on these freighting trips. In the winter months, they spent many nights sleeping outside in the cold weather. Jeremie recalls one trip they made to Trout Lake, they spent Christmas and New Year's under the spruce trees. Jeremie and Frank also helped their father with farming and helped other farmers during the harvest season. When August was away on these trips, Helen looked after the farm.

In the month of July, two or three weeks were taken off from all the work and everyone went to the Pilgrimage in Lac St. Anne. They would go by horse team, travelling through the Swan Hills area, until the road was built to Edmonton. Helen went to this Pilgrimage for about sixty years and she also went to the Pilgrimage in Jossard.

August was a councillor for the Swan River Band for 12 years and a chief for 7 years. As a chief, August would distribute rations and supplies to the band members. He also organized the hand games and tea dances for the July 1st celebrations. August's son, Charlie is presently the chief for the Swan River Band.

August died of a heart attack on June 15, 1966 at the age of seventy two. Helen died on August 8, 1977 at the age of seventy-nine. August and Helen had 2 children: Freddie and Charlie. They both learned how to play a guitar at an early age and have played for many dances in this area.

August and Helen's children:

Justine and Johnny are deceased.

Jeremie resides in Kinuso.

Frank resides in Kinuso and has 5 children: Huey, Brian, Tina, Tracy and Frank Jr.

Elizabeth deceased on February 11, 1962 had 10 children: Ruby, Kenneth, Donald, Lloyd, Helen, Debbie, Verna, Audrey, Sharon and Freda.

Elsie deceased on October 8, 1978 had 5 children: Allan, Gary, Annette, Joey and Robbie.

Fred resides in Edmonton and has one child: Leon

Charlie resides in Kinuso and has 5 children: Shirley, Rose, Donna, Janice and Nadine.

Helen and August have 10 great-grandchildren.

John & Bertha Giroux

(As told by Madge McRee)

John was born to Benjamin and Isabel (Nee

Hamelin) on September 30, 1905 in Kinuso. John had three brothers; Joe, George, and Charlie and two sisters; Nancy and Sophie.

Bertha (Cunningham) was born to Sam and Justine Cunningham on April 21, 1910 in St. Albert. Bertha had one brother, Walter and three sisters; Irene, Clara and Racheal.

John and Bertha were married in Kinuso 1935. They made their home in Kinuso where John did some farming and fishing. During the winter months he did some trapping.

John moved to Slave Lake and built a log house. Later moving back to Kinuso John worked in a logging camp. He also sold wood and pastured horses for other people.



August Sound, George Giroux and John Giroux.

John passed away on September 25, 1951. Bertha continued to live in Kinuso until her death on September 6, 1976.

Bertha had fourteen children. A set of twins, Doreen and Noreen passed away April, 1951.

Madge resides in Slave Lake and has nine children; Vera, Judy, Edward, Lorraine, Marilyn, Gail, Brian, Arthur, Johnnie.



The Giroux family: Gerald, Allan, Eleanor, Madge, Eunice, Doris, Esther, Bertha, John, Billy, Peggy, Irene, and Diane.

Eleanor resides in Slave Lake and has six children; Kenny, Anita, Lois, Mona, Neil and Joey.

Allan resides in Kinuso and has five children; April, Tony, Buddy, Roland and Joanne.

Eunice resides in Edmonton and has four children; Ronnie, Rodger, Tracy and Garnett.

Doris resides in Edmonton and has four children; Joe, Linda, Veronica and Denny.

Ester resides in Edmonton and has four children; Robert, Lorraine, Louanne and Richard.

Gerald resides in Slave Lake and has one child; Edward.

John resides in Saint Paul.

Peggy resides in Edmonton and has two children; Geraldine, and James.

Billy resides in Edmonton and has one child; Barbara.

Irene resides in Edmonton and has one child; William.

Dianne resides in Slave Lake.

Paul and Millie Sowan

As told by Millie Sowan

Paul was born to Samual and Theresa (Giroux) on December 23, 1894 in Kinuso. One of 12 children, Paul has seven brothers — Joe, Pete, August, Duffel, Sam and Frank, and five sisters — Emily, Mary, Bella, Rosalie and Lena.



Mary Sowan, Emily Sowan, Paul Sowan holding Frank Sowan, Joe Ventrille.

Paul attended school in Grouard for two years, leaving to help his father on the farm and later going to work on the railroad. Spending a number of winters hunting and trapping with Pat Courtorielle and Bernard Potskin, he sold his furs to Harry Walker. He also did some freighting. Using his own team and travelling with other freighters, he hauled supplies to many northern areas.

Paul married Millie L'Hirondelle, daughter of Narcisse and Annie (Delorme), on April 24, 1928 in Kinuso. Millie was born February 20, 1911 in Lac La Nonne. She has three brothers — Fred, Victor and Robert and two sisters — Emma and Agnus. The family moved to Kinuso when Millie was still a baby where her father worked on the railroad, in sawmills, freighted for the Forestry and did some trapping and



Paul and Millie Sowan — September 1975.

fire fighting. Millie attended school in Kinuso for four years before quitting to work at home until she married.

Paul and Millie made their home in Kinuso for one year where Paul worked for the railroad before moving to Assineau where he cleared land for Schaffer for one summer. Moving to Canyon Creek, they worked on the construction of the fish hatchery and dock and Paul worked in the hatchery for a short time.

Returning to Kinuso they took up farming. In the winter Paul hauled hay from the lake shore by horse and sleigh. He also cut cord wood to trade for cattle or bought them at \$15.00 a head. Calves were worth \$5.00.

Millie milked cows and sold the milk for 10¢ a quart. Cream brought \$8.00 for a five gallon container. She sold butter for 15¢ a pound and eggs for 15¢ a dozen at Harry Walker's Store. Paul also worked on neighboring farms during the threshing season.

For a time Paul worked at Field's logging camp in the hills floating the logs down the Swan River to the mill.

Paul was Chief for the Swan River Band for two years.

Paul often recalls how he enjoyed horse racing. Riding a horse called "Mustard", owned by Pat Courtorielle, he particularly enjoyed racing the R.C.M.P.

Giving up farming, Paul worked at Imperial Lumber for four years before retiring.

Paul and Millie had six children:

Elsie lives in Kinuso and has ten children — Judy, Philip, Dean, Jimmy, June, Larry, Brenda, Connie, Janet and Brian.

Jimmy and his wife Louise live in Kinuso.

Audrey (deceased) had seven children — Lorraine, Donna, Amy, David, Terry, Sherry and Tracy.

Edna (deceased) had four children — Annette, Georgina, Howard and Paul.

Mary lives in Kinuso and has seven children — Holly, Lance, Leslie, Geraldine, Roland, Alex and Christopher.

Patrick Giroux (Mitchell)

Pat has a mass and song book written in Cree which he uses for the funerals. This book is 45 years old. This is a verse that Pat has picked out:

[illegible]

67



Patrick Giroux and Philomine Gladue — 1978.

Philomine Gladue

Philomine Chalifoux was born July 10, 1895, in Kinuso. At the age of 6, Philomine rode on the big steam boat which took her to school at Grouard.



Philomine Gladue — 1977.

When school was let out for the summer holidays, she rode this steam boat back home to Kinuso. This boat was the only means of transportation at the time.

As a teenager, Philomine worked at Whitecotton's restaurant along with two other women. She also did house keeping for many different people.

Philomine worked for her uncle Jean Chretien Chalifoux (Iamsees). He had a store and stopping place at Swan River Point. Her duties were to put gro-



Philomine's mother Marie Chalifoux, Philomine, Helen and August Chalifoux, children are George and Edna Pierce.

ceries away and wait on the customers. She also helped with the animals and the farming.

Philomine married Frank Gladue. She has two daughters, Jenny and Bella.

Philomine also worked at Pierce's store in Kinuso. Later when the Pierces moved to Canyon Creek to set up a store there, Philomine also moved there. She babysat for her sister Julie Pierce, as her sister was sick and paralyzed from the waist down.

Philomine moved back to Kinuso to live with her daughter Jenny and grandchildren, John, Donald, Douglas, Lloyd, Beverly, George and Judy.



Philomine Gladue with her grandchildren: Doug, Donald, John, George.

Her grandson, Donald, has been with the Canadian Armed Forces for seventeen years, covering

many areas as far as Germany. He is presently stationed at the base in Suffield.

Her daughters Jenny resides in High Prairie and Bella lives in Edmonton. Today, Philomine 84, resides in Kinuso and lives with her grandson John.

Lee Farris (Canada Kid) (1908-1943)

Lee Farris was born Easter Sunday, April 19, 1908, at his grandmother's home near McHenry, North Dakota.

He came to Swan Valley in 1913 with his mother and step-father, Liz and John Swanson (nee: Sloan), and sister Francis. He attended the first Swan Valley School which was located where the cemetery is today. Lee later attended the Adventist School near Swan Creek.

At the age of 12, Lee decided to leave home. During the period of three days he had rode his horse through the Swan Hills almost to Fort Assinaboine, then deciding maybe home wasn't so bad after all; turned around and headed for home, he was met on the way back by Roy Sloan (an uncle) one of many who had been out searching for him.

Lee became interested in riding at a very young age, he is remembered for trying out the horses the other kids had ridden to school, during noon hour for their bucking abilities.

In 1924, Ernest Sloan, John (Lee's step-dad) and Lee all went to the States for work. In the fall the men returned home to their families, but Lee, now sixteen stayed behind and began his rodeo career.

At that time there were very few boys from Canada who rode in the States, so it wasn't long before Lee had earned the title "Canada Kid."

Two of Lee's good friends were Guy Weadick, originator of the Calgary Stampede, and Pete Knight, another great rodeo cowboy. Because there wasn't much money in rodeoing at that time, Pete and Lee often decided before their rides to split any money won therefore always giving themselves something to continue with.

During the Calgary Stampede of 1929, Lee was injured quite seriously, he was riding a long-horned steer when one of the horns put out Lee's right eye. Lee, though, somehow managed to finish his ride and win prize money for the day. The following article appeared in the paper that day in 1929.

COWBOY RIDES STEER THOUGH EYE PUT OUT

Calgary, Alta.; July 10 — An astounding feat of human endurance was performed at the stampede here Tuesday, when Lee Farris, of Dewinton, Alta. known far and wide as the "Canada Kid" continued to ride a Brahma steer after his right eye had been pulled out by the beast's horns. Farris finished his ride to take the prize money for the day for his event, although he suffered his injury early in the test. He was rushed to the hospital after the event and the remains of his eye were removed on the operating table. His condition is serious, but is expected to make recovery. Last year the Canada Kid was the Champion all-around Cowboy.



Canada Kid (Lee Farris) riding a steer.

In 1930, Lee came back to Kinuso with a boxcar of wild horses and put on a rodeo, the horses had been gathered down around Calgary. Many local boys tried their luck at riding and Lee gave an exhibition ride. Admission to this rodeo in 1930 was 50¢.

Lee won many awards and trophies; Some of them



Canada Kid (Lee Farris) and wife Leah, also a rider and trainer of horses.

were:

1928 — Canadian All-Round Champion;
1928 — Steer Riding Champion;
1929 — Canadian All-Round Champion;
1930 — Bareback Bronc Riding Champion;
1931 — Bareback Bronc Riding Champion;
1937 — Steer Riding Champ at the Oklahoma State Fair in Oklahoma City.

Lee was married in 1931 to Leah Staple whom he had met at Red Deer, Alta. Leah is still very active in the field of horses to-day.

Lee died at an early age on January 18, 1943 due to a ruptured appendix.

He was laid to rest at Hayward, California.

Margaret Gallagher

submitted by Margaret Gallagher

I would like to contribute any substantial and detailed historical information to identify myself with what was happening since I was a product of that era and location.



Margaret Gallagher.



Left to right, Back row: Mrs. Shantz, Louise Roe, Mrs. Kusch.
Front row: Mrs. Gallagher, Margaret Gallagher and Ali Van der Horst.

I had to migrate strictly for survival. As of 5-5-79, I completed 15 years of service with the Bank of America and their address is 555 California St., San Francisco, Calif. I spent 9 years in Portland, Oregon and have a 5 year service pin from Jantzen (the Bathing Suit people).

Prior to my history of data processing — I was a fashion model and still maintain a neat size 10.

My interests are very domestic. I cook in many languages. I love to entertain and maintain a charming apartment. Don't forget, I'll be 65, 8-15-79. I guess I am just an artistic kid.

Martin Edward (Ed.) Quinn and Jean (Moore) Quinn

"Ed", as he was known to all, was born in Sidney, Cape Breton (Nova Scotia now), on October 9, 1902, to Martin James Quinn and Caradella (Troy) Quinn. Mr. Quinn was a former member of the N.W. Mounted Police serving from the year 1813 18 until he served in the Boer War from 1898 until 1901 when he was discharged due to injuries. He was honored in England by Queen Victoria along with other Canadian men for their outstanding service in the war.

In 1905, the Golden West beckoned to him, so he and his wife and son Edward headed for Red Deer, Alberta, where his brother Michael John had homesteaded in 1899. He also took a homestead quite close by and built a home there. They lived here a few years then sold out and moved to Calgary.

Ed received his schooling in Calgary and worked at various odd jobs until he was old enough to go out in the world. He worked in several lumber mills as well as on the harvest excursions in the three Prairie Provinces. Somewhere during the years of 1922 or 1923, he was in the Lacombe area where he purchased a farm and tried his efforts at farming himself, but due to crop failures and hail storms, it wasn't too successful as he sold out and went to Turner Valley, a boom town at that time to join his mother, his brother Clarence, and sister Myrtle, who were living there, Clarence being employed at the plants. Ed also got a job there in a scrubbing plant. This is where he remained until work fell off in 1931, and he was laid off along with many other single men, so he and a friend, Edmund H. Smith, planned a trip to the famous Peace River country (but he never quite got there), so they bought a 1926 Ford Touring car, a tent and camp stove and a few camping essentials and off they started. He spent a few days in Edmonton then on to Slave Lake where they remained for a week but decided that was too tame so came to Kinuso and stayed with a Valley resident, Wilfred George, for awhile and looked the country and people over. They got their first work at the farm of George E. Cornell putting up hay on shares, then went to Moore's farm where they were hired to put up hay. They remained with Moores until they decided to go their separate ways, Ed Smith going back to Turner Valley and Ed Quinn remaining as a hired man on the Moore farm. Incidentally that's where he remained, as on August 29, 1933, Moore's daughter Jean and Ed Quinn were married in High Prairie at the United Church.



Jean and Ed Quinn — 1971-72.

Jean was raised in Swan Valley and received her education at the Valley school, and then at Alberta College in Edmonton, then returned home and remained on the home place helping her parents with the farm work, and later worked with her husband Ed, as we had become owners of the farm land, all the machinery, and stock, after Mother and Dad passed away. During Dad's time, we worked in partnership.

Ed and I were the parents of five children:

June Catherine, born June 5th, 1935, in Mrs. White's nursing home in High Prairie, Alberta.

Clarence George, also born at Mrs. White's on February 2, 1938.

Edna Margaret, born November 13, 1942, in the Providence Hospital, High Prairie, Alberta.

Gerald Martin, born August 13, 1946, in Providence Hospital, High Prairie, Alberta.

James Moore, born June 15, 1948, also at Providence Hospital, High Prairie, Alberta.

June received her schooling at the Valley School and then at the Kinuso School. Did various baby sitting jobs until she was married to Andre J. Fauque, and they reside on their farm at Fawcett, Alberta. They have four children: Lydia Marie, born December 23, 1961. Grant Andre, born Sept. 29, 1964. Edward Preston, born October 1, 1967, and Anita Lynette, born July 26, 1973.

Clarence grew up in Swan Valley and worked at various jobs in the vicinity. In 1958, he was hired by Gabe Harward to operate a Transport truck, hauling stock and various other commodities to Edmonton and bringing back a load of freight for this area. He was with "Gabe's Transport" for six years when Gabe sold out to Orval Hayes of Smith, Alberta. As it happens Clarence went right along with the transfer and drove for Hayes Enterprises for six or seven years. He then returned to the home farm and worked with his father and they also farmed land he had previously purchased from Tom Sloan (Jr.) consisting of 400 acres. He must have decided farming wasn't too bad as he is still quite contented at the job and remains working the family farm along with his own. He has been able to get some of the modern machinery and raises quite a herd of cattle. He lives on the home place where his mother is.

Edna Margaret was raised in the Valley and received her education in the Kinuso School. On July 18,

1960 she was married to Richard Alfred Speakman of Alder Flats who was employed by Kiss Construction and later became a field supervisor for the company, so is away from home a great deal of the time. They make their home on Clarence's place in the Valley and give a helping hand when needed in the farming regime. They have five children: Stewart James, born Oct. 1, 1963. Colleen Troy, born Dec. 26, 1965. Calvin Philip, born May 20, 1967. Roger Allan (better known as George), born Jan. 15, 1969. Carmellia Jean (Carrie), born Sept. 17, 1974. The four eldest attend school in Kinuso and take part in many school enterprises.



Ed Quinn with his grandchildren — January 22nd.

Left to right, Back row: Stewart Speakman, Lyda Fauque, and Grant.

Left to right, Front row: Ed. Fauque, Roger and Calvin Speakman.

Gerald Martin was born August 13, 1946 in High Prairie. He attended school in Kinuso and tried his hand at several jobs. He enjoyed the lumber business and became a lumber grader at Bissells Mill in Enilda. Later he continued grading at Chisholm Mills. At present he is with a Seismic Crew and likes that type of work also. Gerald was married to Ethel Ulrich of Fawcett on July 25, 1969, and they have one son Martin Arthur, born March 15, 1971. He attends school in Fawcett and is taking grade 3 this year. Gerald and Ethel own a trailer and are living in the Flatbush area where Ethel helps her mother on the farm while Gerald is away. They have obtained a quarter section of their own and hope to move to it before long.

James Moore was born in High Prairie June 15, 1948, and received his schooling in Kinuso. He started working out when he was quite young. He spent the first two winters of his working career at Bissells Mill at Wabasca, Alberta, which Bill and Myron Karpa were in charge of. The first winter he 'bucked up' at the landing and the second winter he operated a logging truck in the bush for Bill and Myron. He was in his seventh heaven behind the wheel of a truck, so continued operating trucks on

various jobs. He worked three years for Wm. Parker of Swan Hills hauling various loads in the construction business. He also worked for Sloco McRee operating his gravel truck, then to Herb Engebretson of Slave Lake, hauling plywood to Zeidler Plywood in Edmonton in the summer and logs in the winter. When Herb sold out, Jim went driving for Edmo Gagne of Slave Lake where he remained until recently when he became the proud owner of his own "Peterbilt Tractor" and is employed by the Pembina Trucking of Westlock, Alberta, where he hauls various loads all over the province of Alberta. He, like Clarence, is still paddling his own canoe, as neither are married as yet.

On August 30, 1974, we were saddened by the death of husband and Father, Martin Edward (Ed), after a short stay in the High Prairie Hospital. He passed away very suddenly with a heart attack. He is laid away in the Swan Valley cemetery. Jean, still resides on the home farm.

The Life of Jean and Ed Quinn

In the year nineteen hundred and thirty-one,
At the town of Turner Valley a model "T" began
to hum.

Ed and Ted were on their way to that far north,
To seek adventure and romance was their aim,
In the Model "T" Ford they began to find their
worth.

They stopped at Slave Lake, which was too tame
So on to Kinuso they went, just for fun don't you
see?

Once there a week, Ed chanced to wander
Into the Post Office just to take a plunder,
There low and behold a sight there to see
Stood a dark haired maiden, anxious to be
Just a little wife and have a family.

He courted just once with a chaperone
And then very brave, he became
His fate, to see was very plain
As after two years, his wife she became.

Then after two years more to his pride and joy,
A baby which should be a boy
But to their delight came one night, a girl
To make their life a joyous whirl.

They thought being papa and mama was fun
So after awhile they tried it again,
This time came a bouncing boy on the run
And a tractor boy he became.

Five years later, another bonnie face was added,
The house with little feet began to clatter
This time was the last, no matter
But after four more years of wedded bliss
And to the family of three,
A little boy came to join the throng
Who was hale, hearty and strong.
This was the last, many times they did wail
But of the cries of gladness
When another was on the trail.
Another bouncing baby boy to enliven
And bring the happy family to five'n.

A Tribute to Jean Quinn

The Quinn Cabin

The cabin lays silent,
in a sea of snow.
No glass in the windows,
no latch on the door.
The roof is caved in
from the weight of the snow,
with a bare birch tree
struggling through the snow.

The stories it would tell,
if the cabin could speak,
telling of hardships and sorrow,
of joy and adventure.
Of long cold winters,
and hot dry summers.
The breaking of new land,
plus the gardens of spring.

The children it saw
growing healthy and strong,
bringing questions and answers
as the young often do.
Seeing the love that was shared,
from the people within.
From birthdays and weddings
and Christmas too.

But all that remains
of this cabin of logs,
is the memories.
Yes, the logs are still there
tho cracked and growing old,
but the memory of old,
will linger on, and on,
in the hearts of minds
of those who care.

(written by Dave Stevenson)

Mrs. James (Dori) Harrison

Better known as "Dori" to those who knew and loved her, in times of sickness and health.

Mrs. Harrison was born at New Windsor, Mercer County, Illinois on July 30th, 1878. With her parents, she moved as a child to Missouri, where she married Glen Larson. He passed away a few years later, leaving her with two young sons: Albert Glen Larson, born October 14th, 1897, and Stanley E. Larson, born January 6th, 1895. Glen passed away when he was 37 years old on August 19th, 1935, and Stanley still resides in Oklahoma.

In 1902, Mrs. Larson married Fred Stuck of Blaine County. To this union were born two sons; Silas Paul, born near Hitchcock, Oklahoma, on February 25th, 1905, and Fredrick Hercel, born near Kinuso, Alberta on February 12th, 1916.

In 1910, Mr. Stuck came to northern Alberta to locate a new home for his family. He homesteaded 10 miles south of the present town of Kinuso. Two years later, he sent for his family to join him there.

Mrs. Harrison recalls that they sailed up Lesser Slave Lake on the Hudson's Bay Steamboat. The Cap-



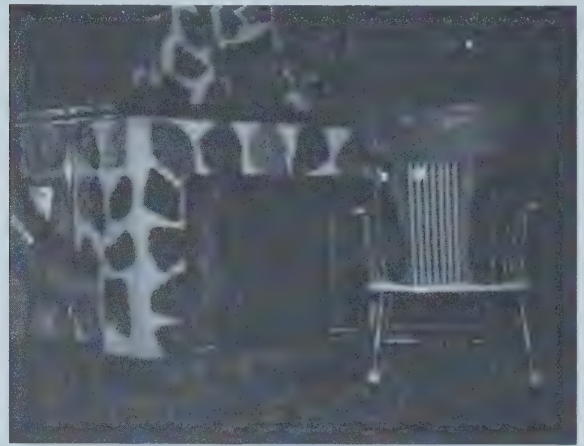
Mr. and Mrs. James Harrison.



Dora Harrison on the step of her home in Kinuso.

tain of the boat told her it would be necessary for her to remain on the boat until it docked at Grouard, 30 miles beyond her destination. When she told him that he would have to be responsible for her meals and lodgings until her husband could be notified of his family's presence there, and could call for her, the Captain then blew the boat whistle as they neared Wapaw Point, to attract attention. Her husband who was expecting his family to be on the boat, met them with a row-boat and took them to shore. That night, Mrs. Harrison recalls, they spent in a tent. The following morning she met Mr. and Mrs. Finnie Hill and was invited to have dinner at their home. Later that day she met Mr. and Mrs. Jesse Sloan. In good time she met Mr. and Mrs. Geo Moore, Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Hunt, and a family who lived away on a hill by themselves named Frost.

The first winter in the north, she cooked for Oliver Travers Logging Camp at Grouard. The cook-house was a tent. Her husband was employed at the mill also.



Mrs. Harrison's rocking chair, (1914) Wedding gift.

The following summer, the couple cut a road through the bush to their new farm and built a log house there. Little by little with axe and walking plow. Mrs. Harrison says "She wasn't much of a farmer at first." But with true pioneer spirit, she worked in the hayfields, milked cows and split wood. She could split her own wood and swing an ax as well as any man.

She was often called upon to nurse the sick, since there was no medical doctor in the country in those days; there were no district nurses to be called in time of sickness. She ushered a lot of babies into the world. Years later, she attended their weddings, and the weddings of their children, and now knows their grandchildren.

Several years after arriving in Kinuso, Mr. Stuck was in poor health. The homestead was sold to Jim Harrison, and the family moved to Willington, Texas, to be near relatives. In 1919, Mr. Stuck died. His body was taken to the family plot at Hitchcock, Oklahoma for burial. Three years later, Dori returned to Kinuso with her two youngest sons, Silas and Hercel.

She later married Jim Harrison, and returned to live on the homestead, where trails were still bush trails with more mud holes than dry ground. The mosquitoes made life unbearable for animals and people alike. Smudges gave some relief from flies and mosquitoes from spring to fall; without smoke one could not have stayed.

In 1925, Mr. Harrison underwent major surgery in an Edmonton hospital, where he spent several weeks. Scotty Cameron of Kinuso R.C.M.P. detachment arranged that Mrs. Harrison accompany a female prisoner to Edmonton, in the capacity of a matron. She wanted to be with her husband on the long journey home, since he was not as strong as could be hoped. Forty-one days after he arrived home, Jim Harrison passed away. Jim had been from Bitter Root Valley in Montana. He passed away on May 29th, 1925.

With her two sons, Dori carried on with the farm and in later years she lived in Kinuso.

Of her four sons, two are still living, Stanley in the U.S.A. and Silas in the Nursing Home in High Prairie. Glen passed away in 1935 and Hercel in 1977. She has two grandsons in the United States.

Besides minor illnesses, Mrs. Harrison had survived double pneumonia and more then twenty years ago had her left eye removed, but her general health was very good for one of her years, and she had a keen appreciation of living.

She spent some time visiting relatives in the United States on a few occasions over the years. She spent some time with her oldest son Stanley in Oklahoma. Dori spent the last few years of her life in the Senior Citizen's Lodge in High Prairie. She was always a wee bit homesick for Kinuso and her old friends, who she declared to be some of the best in the world.

She was very active until the last two months before her passing away on April 17th, 1969 at the age of 90 years.

Silas Paul — was born near Hitchcock, in Oklahoma on Feb. 25th, 1905.



Silas Stuck.



Hercel Stuck leading a pet moose.

Hercel Fredrick — was born near Kinuso, Alberta, Feb. 12th, 1916.

Both Silas and Hercel helped their mother farm until it was too much for her. Then she turned the farm over to them and they farmed it together on their own. Eventually they sold the land. They grew up and spent their lives in the Swan Valley, and when they left the farm they worked for various other farmers. Silas liked driving machinery of any kind, but Hercel was a heavy machine operator.



Hercel Stuck on "Tiny" on his way to school.

Mr. Milo Brian

The year 1914, brought another man to the settlement, Mr. Milo Brian (Slim, as he was better known). Slim came in with the railway grade crew and remained here for the next five or six years. During the winter months, he and Curt McKinley (while off duty on the forestry), would cut and deliver railway ties and also telephone poles by contract to the local siding. These ties and poles would be delivered by horse drawn sleighs (heavy logging sleds) and many thousands of ties were delivered.

Another story is told of Slim Brian, this time accompanied by Jack Killeen Sr. It seems that they were sampling home made brew or hootch on the way to town one day, upon overtaking a woman by the

name of Mary Sound (possibly Paul Sound's sister). They offered her a ride which she accepted and climbed in the back of the wagon. The men, busy talking and sampling their bottle, didn't see James (Scotty) McNeil on horseback ride up from behind and motioned Mary to join him, which she did. So the laugh was on Jack and Slim when they reached town and found their passenger gone.

William (Bill) & Violet Ashley

Bill and Violet and their small children, Edgar and Eva, left Edmonton in a sleigh early in the spring of 1914. Violet was wearing a long wool skirt and while cooking over a camp fire, her skirt caught fire and she was badly burnt on the legs and the lower part of her body. Bill took her to a nearby farm house, where the lady there wrapped her legs in unwashed flour sacks, which of course caused infection. With the aid of a policeman they took Violet to an Edmonton hospital, where she remained for six months.

Later in the spring, Bill and the two children arrived in Swan River at the home of Emanuel and his mother, Agnes Grono. He stayed there until he got his homestead buildings done. Mrs. Agnes Grono kept Edgar, three years old and James and Clara Grono kept Eva, one year old, until Violet came later.

Eva on the way out from Edmonton slept in an old time washing machine for a cradle.

The Ashley's left Kinuso about 1923-24. Bill was a butcher by trade. Bill died in Nova Scotia and Violet is still alive at 86 years.

submitted by:
Cynthia (Grono) Roe

May and Bill Frost

by Jim Frost

My parents, May and Bill Frost, came to Swan Valley in 1913. They travelled by steam boat on the lake to Wahpah Point. From there an Indian moved them to what was then known as McKillops lake, which is now more or less a slough.

Two weeks later they moved to the homestead N.W. 5-72-R9-W5. This homestead was flooded out in 1914, and we moved to N.E. 7-72-R9-W5, which is still called the Frost place.

My mother, May Frost, was a nurse and she delivered Raymond and, I believe, Bertha Sloan. She also tried to save Constable Osgood's life in the Beagle-Osgood duel in 1918. In 1918 the country was all down with flu, and my dad and one young man, I don't remember his name, did all the chores, and did as much as they could to help the people from the Ranger Station in the upper end of the Valley to Moores' place (where the cemetery is now). My dad Bill and Curt McKinley were rangers and they put the north boundry line trail through. Six white kids and myself, went to the first log school that was built by the Methodist Church, that was near where the Valley cemetery is now. Harold Sloan and I grew up together. We played on the same ball team, he pitched and I caught. I'm not sure of the year my parents left the Valley and I was quite young when

Mom and Dad Sloan raised me.

In 1939 Agnes (my wife) and I left the Valley. We have a son Bob and a daughter Ellen who are married and living in Edmonton. We raised Bonnie and Dave McLean since 1960. Dave lives at Quesnel, B.C. and is a push button sawyer. Bonnie is at my home and is an auctioneer. We have also raised a grandson, Marty, since he was 6 months old. We have six grandsons, lost one in a fire and three granddaughters all in Edmonton except one in Yellowknife.

While I lived in Swan Valley, I trapped, logged, farmed and fought fires. I also played guitar with Sloan boys first valley band called "Squirrel Hunters" in 1930's. Raymond played the violin, and we played in the Valley Hall and also in town.

Marty is going to school in Edmonton and training to be a chartered accountant. I am 70 years old and still farming a half section on the Drayton Valley highway. I also play in a four piece band called "The Western Old Timers" and travel to different towns, playing for dances and in bars.

Dorothy and Clifford Sloan

I, Dorothy was born Feb. 15, 1912, in a small town in North Dakota. I was seven years old when my folks decided to pull up stakes and move to Canada. We arrived by train on March 28, 1919. Mother's brother came with Mother and us children. My Dad had come earlier with a load of livestock, etc. . . I don't remember who met us, we went by team and sleigh up the valley to my grandparents place. Within a few days of our arrival we were all down with the flu, which was severe that year and many people died. Later my Dad rented a farm from Joe Anderson and I believe we lived there for two years. From here we moved to a farm east of Kinuso town for a year then we moved up the valley again, but this time on the east side of the Swan River, to Harry Anderson's farm, where we lived many years. This is where we were living when I left home.

Sometime in late spring or early summer of 1919, my Dad's youngest brother was drowned in the Swan River during a high water period.

I attended school in the valley, then in town for awhile, where I caught scarlet fever, and we had it all winter.

From the Anderson farm we crossed the river and went to the school on the Jesse Sloan property. This is where I finished my school days.

As I grew older I worked inside as well as outside the house, I learned to do all the outside chores, feeding chickens, harnessing horses as well as hauling hay in winter with my brother. I worked in the garden in all it's phases, also picked berries as did the other members of the family.

One fall my younger brother, and my older sister and I stooked all or most of our crop — it seemed endless — we helped with the haying in any way we could.

I worked picking strawberries one or two summers, to get cash for school clothes. When I left home I worked out at housework, as there was no money for further education or training. I spent one summer

in the U.S.A. returning in late summer. The following spring I worked in town doing housework, I worked at this home for three summers.

Clifford is the fourth child, in the Jesse Sloan family. His parents moved to Grouard, Alta. to be near a doctor on his arrival. However the doctor was called away and a native lady took over as midwife. He was born Feb. 3, 1911. In the spring they returned to their homestead in the valley. They lived in a log house with a sod roof. There was a cellar underneath for storage of garden vegetables. The floor was of logs hewn flat on one side and to fit on the ends.

One of his earliest memories, is his Dad's team of oxen. They were used in those days like we used horses in the last several years.

On one occasion there was a lot of activity and excitement among their household and some of the neighbors — One young man who used to come visit the group, left and didn't return. It was years before Clifford was old enough to understand that Denny Burns had gone to World War I and unfortunately he did not return.

One day a stranger came to the door as they were eating a meal of cooked wheat, (they didn't have much to eat in those days). The stranger named Stuck had come over the Swan Hills and his team of horses couldn't make it up the river hill, so he was looking for someone to assist him. This stranger settled nearby and the families were fast friends. Clifford's folks built a new larger house nearby which they moved into in the early 1920's.

The older children attended the Adventist school up the valley for some years, later a school was built in the centre of the valley and the Adventist school was closed. The Government built a school on the Jesse Sloan property in later years and this is where Clifford finished school.

As time passed and the family grew old enough to help with the work, his dad had acquired more land, he also had built up a herd of cattle. They always milked 25 to 30 cows as shipping cream in those days was one way to get a bit of cash and keep the wolf from the door.

Clifford worked at home at what ever was necessary — at times he worked out at logging and even did some trapping in winter. He and many others learned to hunt big game as that was the main source of meat for many years.

In the spring of 1933 Clifford went west to make his fortune, going to Grande Prairie, jobs weren't all that plentiful as money was scarce, and wages were very low. He finally settled for a job on a farm at 10.00 per month, (how does that compare to an hours wage today?). He was to get 15.00 a month in spring work, it took two weeks to put in 400 acres so he was paid \$7.50.

He changed jobs somewhere in spring or summer, which was sorta like "jumping from the frying pan into the fire," however, he stayed with it and I joined him just before Christmas 1933. We were married in Sexsmith on Jan. 9, 1934. We remained at that job until April then we returned to Kinuso. We moved about for the next few years working at whatever was

available. In 1939 we joined some other people and went to B.C. for the summer, returning to Alberta in the fall, where Clifford hunted squirrels all winter. We returned to B.C. in mid February of 1940 and our son Alvin Vernon was born March 21, 1940 in the Vernon Jubilee Hospital. He is our only child.

We returned to Alta. again in the fall 1940. Later we bought a farm and farmed during all the war years and for sometime after.

Alvin took his schooling in Kinuso, when he finished he entered the Southern Alberta Institute of Technology in Calgary, where he trained for an Aircraft Maintenance Engineer. He worked up north in Inuvik for almost three years. Meantime he applied with the Chevron Oil Co. He was accepted and is still employed by them. He was stationed in Edmonton and this is where he met his wife.

Joyce Lila Hodgins was born and raised around Edmonton. They were married on October 26, 1968. They were transferred to Calgary where they now live. They have two lovely adopted children, a son Kelly and a daughter Colleen. We have two lovely grandchildren to cherish.

Clifford and I are living in B.C. now.

Bob Cormier

Bob Cormier met up with Mr. and Mrs. Albert Good at Athabasca, Alberta, on the way up to the Swan Valley, early in 1909.

Bob filed on the N.E. ¼ 25-72-10-W5th. He later sold his land to Mr. Alex McLean, who resided on this farm for several years, with his wife and family.

When lots were for sale on the new townsite, he built a large building and opened up a "store" and married Joan Potter. After a year or so he went broke. This building was sold to W. L. McKillop for the Post Office in 1923. The building still stands on the main street of Kinuso and has seen many postmasters and postmistresses come and go. Some of these are the following: W. L. McKillop and Mrs. McKillop, Harvey Cline, Cynthia and Leo Roe, Hester Churchill, John and Dorothy Kirtio and Mary Karpa.



1920's — Store built by Bob Cormier. Was later bought by McKillop's for Post Office.

After Bob quit the store business he went trapping for several years. One story told about Bob was that he had a very large amount of furs but because they had been caught out of season, the police seized them all. It is doubtful if this story is true.

Little is known what happened to Bob.



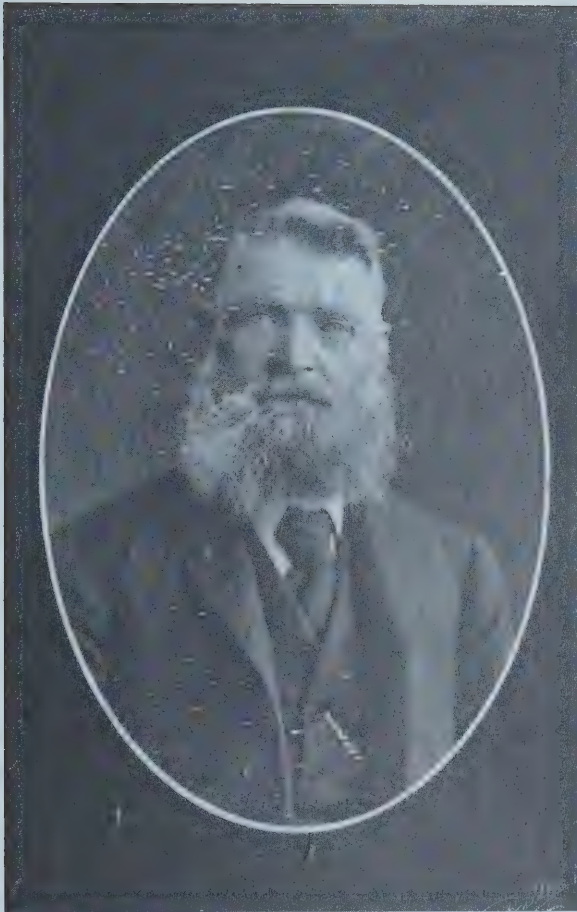
Mrs. Cora Kerle.



Harry and Wilfred Hunt.



Joe Anderson and his log cabin in the Valley.



James Maloney — great-grandfather of Harry Hunt.



Joe Anderson.



Hughie and Molly Thomson.



Left to right: Jack Ritchie, Jack Spratt (teacher), Mrs. Dick Riggs, Mr. McKillop, Mrs. Moore, Mrs. McKillop. Children: Jean Moore and Helen Riggs.



Dick Riggs Farm — 1913 or 14.



Mr. and Mrs. Dick Riggs.



Grandad Booth.



Fred Stuck's cabin on his homestead, Dora and Silas.



Going for a load of hay. Teamster — Jean Moore Quinn; passenger — Peter Thompson, 1916.



Jack Richy.

Chapter Three

Churches

Historical Notes About KINUSO

Lee Cheryl Sheldon, Kinuso Father Jal

The history of every place in this “Far West” of Canada, is linked to two factors; “the Church” (of whatever denomination) and the search for furs, the ‘gold’ of a gone-by era and thereof, the establishment of trading posts by the Hudson’s Bay Co., Revillion Bros., and private traders. Kinuso, like many other little towns and villages; like Grouard, Jousard, Falher, Girouxville, etc., is no exception. When one looks at the map of Northern Alberta, one is not surprised at the names given to those places. 1909 and 1910, were the years of great expansion into those vast territories, and also of the invasion by white settlers in seeking virgin lands of gold and furs . . . But, the only access route in those days was either the ‘Klondike Trail’ via Fort Assiniboine, the “Swan Hills,” and so forth to B.C. and the Yukon, or the water route from Athabasca to Grouard, and then the long portage of wagon trails to Peace River, and from there to the North as far as the Great Slave Lake, by barges of the Mighty Peace River.

KINUSO — one wonders of such a name indeed, but in the books of the Church, there is one, one will find that it was a “Reserve” cut off the land where “Indian” people use to live long ago. The name of “KINUSO” comes from the corruption of “KINOSIW,” a ‘nickname’ of the first chief “Andrew Willier” of the Driftpile Reserve, of which Kinuso Reserve was then dependent. Before the establishment of the said Reserve, this locality was called by the French Coureurs des Bois — “la Riviere du Cygne” a name anglicized later to “Swan River,” as was Driftpile, which was called in the early days — “La Riviere Ambarras.” This little river was indeed a nightmare for the trappers, due to the constant floodings caused by the driftwood from the Swan Hills.

In 1911, H. W. Walker, a white surveyor, was sent to Kinuso by the N.A.R. Company to survey the land for the railroad, which was built in 1915. Like his predecessors, Walker saw the possibility, besides his job, to make some extra money — by the opening of a

store and a fur-trading post. By 1914 however, a few settlers had established themselves in Kinuso, and in that year Mr. Emile Vanderaegen, who came from Belgium, opened a new store and a trading post.

From 1914 on, this Mission of Kinuso, has been taken care of by a Great Missionary, “Father Petour,” who roamed the country for many years, before he had the great pleasure to see his mission declared self-supporting and established as such, by a Decree of Bishop Grouard on August 27, 1915, as the records show. The first official “ACT” inscribed in the Register was the birth and baptism of ‘Rose Delima Sawan’, by Father Petour, O.M.I. This man was in those days, the infatigable missionary of that time. He used to leave Grouard, his base mission, through the “Little Slave Lake” and stop at every locality on the south bank of the lake — Jousard, Driftpile, Faust, Kinuso, Assineau, Canyon Creek, and Sawridge — now called Slave Lake. After a few days rest, and sometimes hard work, he proceeded down the Slave River to Mirror Landing, later called Smith, then to Moose Portage, and to Athabasca and Calling Lake, down the Athabasca River, then on to Sandy Lake and Wabasca. After this long journey he would return to Sawridge by pack horse or dog team in the winters. Each of such trips use to take 3 or 4 months to complete.

On November 15th, 1915, according to the records, the official name of the Mission of Kinuso was called “St. Felix de Valois” — Felix in memory of Felix Giroux, who was then the 1st Councillor of the “Slave Lake Indian Reserve.” He gave 8 acres of Indian land for the Church, cemetery, and the Mission. This Mission was called, before this date, St. Michael Mission, but as there was already one of this name at Carajou Point on the Peace River, the name was changed to St. Felix. On January 28, 1916, Bishop Grouard paid the first visit to this Mission, and chose the site for the church. A building committee was established as a result of this visit:

Emile Vanderaegen, store keeper and post master, was President. Albert Foley and Jean Chretien Chalifoux, the other members. During the winter, logs were collected and the lumber and windows were

brought by horse sleighs from Athabasca. In the spring of 1917, Gaspard Dandurand built the church, and also later that of High Prairie, according to the same pattern. The records also relate, that on April 29, a widower by the name of Joseph Leduc, with the help of Brother Leroux, built the alter-step, the communion rail; finally on October 28, 1917, the Church was blessed by Father Falher and Father Normandeau of the Arch Diocese of Edmonton. They blessed the Church in the absence of Father Petour, who was not back on time from his tour of Missions for this occasion he had longed so much to see. The Church was 36' x 12' x 14'. On his return, Father Petour was happy to move into his house at the back of the Church — 16' x 12' x 12', which was to be his place of abode.



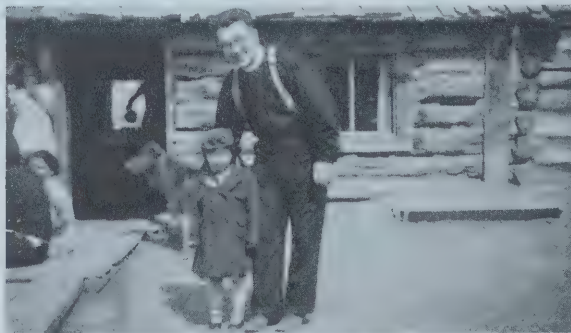
St. Felix Catholic Church (Kinuso) built in 1917.

1918 the dreadful plague of Influenza (called the Spanish Flu) struck the community. Father Petour, trying to cope with the danger of contamination of the whole community lost no time in turning the Church into a hospital, as 42 people were soon housed in the Church. Father Petour was the doctor, the nurse, and alas, also the undertaker for those who didn't survive. The records indicate that for the month of November 1918, alone, 22 people died of Influenza. November 11th, 1918, was indeed a day of great joy for the whole world, with the Armistice of World War I, but not for Father Petour, who learned

by messenger sent to him from Driftpile, to announce to him the death of his best friend, the Chief, Andrew "Kinosiw" Willier, and his wife Sophie Giroux, who died the same day. Father Alac from Jossard, buried them side-by-side in Driftpile. It is to be noted that in those days there was only one big reserve which comprised of: Sawridge, Assineau, Kinuso, Driftpile and Sucker Creek. It's only in the late 1930's that those reserves became independent of each other. The records show also, that for Jossard and Driftpile in November and December alone, 58 people died and Father Petour knew them all.

1919 that year Ben Boisvert came to Kinuso to open a Barber Shop and Pool Room. In July 1919, Father Petour blessed the new bell for the Church — he called it "Emile Joseph". This bell was a gift from James Cornwall to Felix Giroux. The same day, Father Petour was glad to bless the new alter which was a gift from the parishioners, and had been built by Brother Augustin Dumas. It is to be noted that this James Cornwall was the "Federal Director" of the navigation on the Lake and was also a good-devoted Catholic, and a great friend of the Indians, Metis people, and the Missionaries. In his later years, James Cornwall resided at Mirror Landing (Smith), and there also, he gave the money to Father Petour to have a Church built. On January 4th, 1920, Father Petour blessed and installed in the Church, the "Stations of the Cross," which he had received as a gift from the parishioners of the Sawridge Reserve. It is to be noted that those "Stations" are 90 years old now, and are kept with other vessels and sacred utensils as souvenirs of the past.

On April 29, 1921, Father Petour left the sacristy of his Church to take possession of his new household built by Brother Leroux, the first house he had ever had. Then on October 3, 1923, he was transferred to Sawridge. From then on the Mission was taken care of by Father Batietill until the return of Father Petour on February 23, 1927. While remaining there, the sacrifices and hard work finally took their toll, and his health failing, Father Petour finally died in the General Hospital in Edmonton on September 9, 1935. His great heart collapsed; he was 57 years old. Father Petour, called "Red Fox" on account of his red beard, remains to this day, one of the greatest pioneer priests of the West. He was buried in St. Albert with the other 115 Missionaries of the West.



Father Kinderwater standing with Helen Sound — 1938.

In 1938, Father Kinderwater took over the spiritual welfare of the people of Kinuso. As the village of Kinuso was growing, Father Kinderwater decided in 1942, to move the Church to another location of more appropriate access for the villagers. But as usual, in those hard days, it was only on January 5, 1944, that the Church was moved by A. W. Rand, who at the same time, set up the conditions and cost of a new Church. It was a year after, on March 15, 1945, that Bishop Routhier blessed officially this new Church. On May 3, 1963, Father Fillion bought the oil furnace from the Sisters of Wisdom at Slave Lake. He started the Parish Hall on February 26, 1964, at a cost of \$700.00; with the help of Joseph Huculak, his family, and a few devoted parishioners.



The new Catholic Church — now in 1979.

This is only a glimpse of the history of Kinuso. When one looks at the past, we have to give recognition to the courage and endurance of the pioneers of those early days.

Thanks to Father Jal, ami, who helped to 'dig' in the Parish records and to put down what I have just said.

Lee Cheryl Sheldon, Kinuso

PILGRIM'S PROSE

by Father J. Johnson, O.M.I.

1979 Pilgrimage at Lac Ste-Anne

For the fourth consecutive year I set out last week for Lac Ste-Anne for the annual Indian pilgrimage. This event, without a doubt is western Canada's major religious manifestation, saw the mission's forty or so acres fill up with countless tents and campers of every description and color as thousands of pilgrims gathered in the name of the Lord.

One might expect chaos in such a gathering. In fact there seemed to be some sort of order. In the haphazard and spontaneous setting up of a town of considerable magnitude. One was struck rather with much peace and an awesome prayerful atmosphere. People were not there for a picnic, but rather for prayer and spiritual celebrations. This is sacred

ground; God is here and one can feel his subtle but overpowering presence. It's as if we were assembled in an open-air cathedral.



Ste. Anne Statue.



Ste. Anne Shrine.

Soon one's soul was lifted up by the ever-beautiful and strangely moving Cree and Chipewyan hymns composed by unknown missionaries on once popular French hymns. The tired old basilica still has its appeal in its stark and rustic simplicity. The singing, accompanied by the traditional pump organ, is carried over loud-speakers on the grounds where people finish setting up tents or preparing supper over an open camp fire. Soon people will start queuing at confessionals and they will participate with great display of faith to many varied liturgical celebrations.

For the first time I participated in the Way of the Cross procession. Humanly speaking it should have been a flop. For one thing it was supposed to be held at 9:30 p.m. but around 8:30 we found out that it was on without any prior announcement. It was meant to

be a candle-light procession in the twilight, and many people lit their candles, but the sun was still high in the sky. The public address system on the truck was too weak, and I doubt that more than one person in ten was able to hear the meditations and prayers. Also the hymns chosen for each station were mostly unfamiliar to the people.



Camping at Lac Ste. Anne is Julienne Twin with her family.

But it turned out to be the most moving and prayerful Way of the Cross I've ever witnessed. You soon found yourself moving in a crowd of several thousands walking behind the cross. Then you're overwhelmed by the silence of that throng and its prayerfulness. You discover that all the people need for the Way of the Cross is the memory of the suffering Christ, painfully carrying his cross to Calvary, out of love for each of us. No need for a good P.A. system, familiar hymns or twilight.

At the thirteenth station there is an old pietà made of plaster that still captures well the drama of the Virgin Mary holding the dead body of her son. Countless people edged their way to the statue to venerate with love and gratitude Jesus and His mother. Numerous hands reached out, touching, caressing while mute prayers welled up from many hearts accompanied by tears and deep emotions. Meanwhile the procession reached the cemetery where Fr. Maurice MacMahon led the crowd in a beautiful meditation and prayer. Too soon it was over. The crowd lingered on wishing the prayer to go on and on.

There is no doubt that the Lac Ste-Anne pilgrimage is a very rich and meaningful religious moment in the life of thousands of people. Why do they keep coming year after year? One of my parishioners told me that it was the first time she was able to go, but that she fully intends to go back next year. To her it was so beautiful and meaningful.

I feel that for people whose lives are often marred by tragedy, pain, disease and sin (isn't that all of us?) the pilgrimage is an oasis of peace, fellowship and deep communion with God. People have time to look at themselves in the mirror not of our materialistic and competitive society, but in the mirror of Christ's mercy, love and healing. It is a time to renew one's soul, and to be fed at the Lord's sumptuous banquet table. It is a time to unburden one self of unbearable weights. It is a time to be steeped quietly in new life and new hope, basking, as it were in the Lord's great love. One realizes that life is worth living after all.

Lac St-Anne is also people bringing back holy water from the lake, and small religious souvenirs, that in the somber hours that will not fail to come will be a reminder of that foretaste of heaven that was had for a few brief days. Thus people are helped, not only to bear life's constant burdens, but also to contribute in building heaven on earth, which is truly God's dream for us.



People gathering at Lac Ste. Anne to walk in the holy water.

Kinuso United Church

Kinuso United Church began in Swan Valley in 1912. Early settlers donated logs, their time and labor to construct a log church near the site of the present cemetery. This building operation was supervised by the Rev. Woodard, a Methodist. It was a dedicated Methodist Church. The Rev. Rice arrived during the winter to become the first Minister and the Rev. Woodard assisted him.



The first Methodist Church built in 1912, and used as a school from 1912-1922.

Left to right: Reg Trask, Jean (Moore) Quinn, Evelyn (Field) Dewis, Martha (Grono) Cline and A.B. Wetter.

Members of the first Church Board were Mr. George Moore, Mr. Finneas Hill and Mr. Harry Walker. From 1912 to 1922, the building was also used on weekdays as a school.



This is Punch and Judy, the team Whitecotton's drove to church in the Valley.

There was a steady stream of ministers and student ministers from then on:

Mr. Woodworth — 1912 and summer of 1913

Mr. J. C. Spratt — 1914

Rev. Hughes — 1915

Mr. Dorin — 1916

Mr. Randall — 1917 (he was an Anglican)

Mr. Hapgood — 1920

Mr. Willian Lane — 1921

Doctor McKillop a Baptist Minister came to reside in the area and he conducted services from time to time between 1922 to 1925, filling in for and assisting other ministers.

Mr. Reg Trask — 1924

Mr. Doug Wilson — 1925

Mr. George Simpson — 1926

Mr. Frank Harback — 1927-28

Mr. Gordon Newman — 1929-30



The Rev. Newman, who started the new United Church.

Mr. Wilkins — 1931

In 1931, negotiations were underway for lots in which to construct a Church in town. These lots were obtained from Mr. Dick Riggs in exchange for three acres in the Swan Valley.



Building the United Church.

The present United Church was constructed on these lots and dedication ceremony took place July 17, 1932 by the Rev. Oliver and Rev. Thomas Powell.



The dedication of the United Church in Kinuso.

Mr. McCory — 1932

Mr. D. Fry — 1933

Mr. Don Amis — 1934-35

Mr. LeGrow — 1936-37

Mr. Hussar — 1938

Mr. McCormack — 1939

Mr. Harold Winfield — 1940

Mr. Case — 1941

Mr. Ven Evans — 1942

Mr. Don McLean — 1943

In 1944, 1945, and 1946, the Church seems to have been served by the Minister from High Prairie with occasional special services.

Summer Ministers:

Mr. Maurice McLeod — 1947-48

Mr. Vern Wishart — 1949-50-51

Mr. Jim Ritchie — 1952, possibly 1953

Mr. Gordan Decker — 1954

Mr. Dick Swaren — 1956-57-58, resident lay Minister

Mr. John Adams — 1959, resident Student Minister



Mr. Allen Richards — 1960-61, resident Student Minister

Mr. Geo. Rumbold — 1962-63-64-65, resident Lay Minister

Mr. Por — 1966, resident Lay Minister

Rev. Bob Miller — 1965-67

Mr. Wayne Short — 1967

Rev. Ed White — 1968-69-70

Rev. Lal — 1971-72-73

The above four Ministers resided in High Prairie and came to Kinuso every second and fourth Sunday.

The Kinuso United Church Women's Organization started sometime in the 30's. It was then known as the Women's Auxiliary to the United Church. Our present membership is 12 and we assist with United Church work, Sunday School and upkeep of the manse, which is now rented.



The United Church now in 1979.

“The Community Tabernacle”

In Kinuso

Written by Lorne Cornell

It was the summer of 1949, when the first evidence of the Gospel, which came to be identified with the Community Tabernacle took place. A tent was set up in the centre of town nearly opposite where the Hotel is to-day. Mr. Roal, and other visiting ministers held services. Mrs. Ray Sloan played the organ, which she has done for many years since. As the healings of God took place, interest was aroused in the content of the services, and people came from many miles away, including Wabasca; and the account of the services was on everyone's lips.

Later, as the Church was established, services were held in a barn supplied by Mr. Chas. Wood. A chimney was put up, and winter services were held.

There were many causes for rejoicing as God continued to add to his healings, and other divine manifestations among the people. The Indians especially received healings, due, no doubt, to their capacity for faith.

In about 1953, a church building was put up and later finished; Mr. Wanchulak assisted in Ministering at this time.

In 1955 'Brother Carl Swanson', began holding services, and continued for two years. He also had a

Teaching Ministry. Later, in the middle of 1960, Carl came with his family, and held services for two more years. Mr. Lloyd Wood, conducted services in the Church during 1958, and later Mr. and Mrs. Wakefield held services in the Tabernacle for five or six years.

Mr. Joseph Hufnagel, and more recently Mr. Laurence Lorentzen have held services and Sunday School there. I believe God has more in store for the Congregation of 'His Church and the future shall fulfill this.



Left to right, back row: Ralph Woods, Edger Moore, Berger Lind, and Ernie Posegate.

Left to right, second row: Erwin Sharrett, (Marie) Mrs. Ray Sloan, (Edith) Mrs. Jack Scott, (Bethora) Mrs. E. Moore.

Left to right, front row: (Juanita) Mrs. Lloyd Wood, Rev. B.G. Lenard, and (Vinnie) Mrs. Ernie Posegate.

Taken at Kinuso in November 1951 — while taking Bible Classes under Bro. Leonard.

More on the Community Tabernacle

Former Pastors now in Africa.

The Community Tabernacle, was dedicated, June 1953, with Rev. Vic Graham of Wetaskiwin, and the Rev. Bob Debnun of Wildwood, officiating. At that time, Rev. W. Wanchulak, was dedicated as Pastor. Rev. Wanchulak served in that capacity for several years. Other Pastors serving here have been Mr. Carl Swanson, and Mr. Wm. Brown. The Browns are now Missionaries in Sierra Leone, Africa.

The Tabernacle was built with the co-operation of all the people. The late Mr. Amos Rand was overseer

of the work. Among those donating of their time and services were L. Wood, Waldo Francis, and Mr. Rand. Mr. Rand donated the pews which were made from native lumber, also the altar and tables.

There is a board of directors of which Mr. Rand was made an 'honorary member' in 1960.

At present Mr. and Mrs. W. Wakefield, Evangelists, are the pastors.

Swan Valley Cemetery

A cemetery was laid out in 1919, after the tragic drowning of Wilbur Sloan, a young resident of the Valley who attempted to ford the river with a team of horses and wagon during high water.



Taken the day the men fenced the graveyard, July 12, 1924.

Back row: George Hagen, Lou Cail, George Moore, Tom Denison, Jess Sloan, Finny Hill, W.L. McKillop, Cecil Grono, Cage Brown, Tom Sloan Sr., Alex McLean.

Second row: Tom Sloan Jr., Friend Fraser, George Cornell, Sam Kool, Hercel Sloan.

Third row: M.A. Cornell (Grandfather), Harriet Cale holding Nadine, Mrs. Martin Gallagher, Eva Hill, Mrs. George Moore, Martin Gallagher.

Front row: Mr. C.R. Field, Thomas Gallagher, Louise Field (Krull), Martha Grono (Cline).

Very front row: Edgar Hill.

Since the Methodist Church owned five acres of land where they had built and dedicated a church in 1912, on the N.W. corner of the N.W. $\frac{1}{4}$ -19-72-9-W5 it was only logical to make use of a portion of this for

a cemetery. The area chosen was two acres on the east end of their five acres. Further work was done in 1923 when the area was laid out in twelve foot square plots with a two foot walk around each plot, making a sixteen foot square. Later that same year a cemetery committee was formed to take charge of the cemetery. The committee were Mr. F. W. Hill, Mr. Geo. Moore and Mr. Ben E. Boisvert. A small fee was levied on each plot in order to raise funds for upkeep. In July, 1924, a gathering of volunteer workers was called and also with the aid of donations a fence was built around the cemetery and two gates installed.

The grass being cut by local people. Spruce and birch trees were planted around the cemetery in the late 1920's and are still standing, some are of good size. The last three or four years the grass has been cut and repairs done by the Workers on the Canada Works Project. As of this writing in 1979, there are 261 internments, many of these are our early pioneers of the area.



Swan Valley Cemetery.

Chapter Four

Schools

“Schools”

It was in the year 1912, that Swan River School District #2750 was formed. On June 15, 1912, a meeting was called to elect Board Members for the District.

J. C. Hunt was elected chairman of the District, with George W. Moore being elected as Secretary-Treasurer, and Jesse Sloan was elected as Trustee. Meeting was adjourned until June 20. When they met again at the home of Geo. Moore, it was moved and carried that Geo. Moore be appointed assessor of said school district, and J. C. Hunt was instructed to try and procure the services of a teacher.

The next meeting on Sept. 26, 1912, it was resolved by the Board to employ Miss Clara Tassel as teacher at sixty dollars (60.00) per month. School was to start on Monday Sept. 30, 1912, in a log structure built by the Methodist Church Missionary and volunteer labor and dedicated the previous winter. Permission from the Church Officials had been previously obtained.

The pupils that attended the first school were,
Glennie Cupps (Mrs. Harry Hunt)
Howard Posey
Hercel and Cecilia Sloan
Ethel Hunt (Mrs. Geo. Kerle)
Harry and Wilfred Hunt
Silas Stuck.

This making eight students which was one more than the required number in order to have a school.

On Jan. 6, 1913 the annual meeting was called and a second trustee was appointed, this being Mr. Geo. E. Cornell. The others held their same offices. School taxes were levied at $8\frac{1}{8}$ ¢ per acre, thus it would be \$13.00 per 160 acres ($\frac{1}{4}$ section). Mr. Mills was hired as teacher from May, 1913 until he tendered his resignation in Oct. 1913. Wages again were based at \$60.00 per month. At the annual meeting Jan. 15, 1914, Mr. Geo. E. Cornell was elected Secretary-Treasurer to fill the office vacated by Geo. W. Moore. At a meeting on May 3, 1914, it was decided to have school term from May until the end of September,

and it was also decided by the Board to set the school taxes at \$8.00 per quarter section.

School continued in this same building with home made desks and an enormous air-tight heater set in the centre of the room and blackboards across one end and a map case holding necessary maps on rollers, which were great fun pulling down and then let roll up again at their own speed.

In 1921 it was necessary to consider a new school house owing to the growth of population and this log building was showing signs of wear and tear. Various plans for school houses were obtained from the Department and Officials came in from Edmonton to find a suitable building site. Two acres were agreed upon on the north side of the N.E. 18-72-9W5 owned by the Cupps family and later by Jesse Sloan. The location was about half way along the quarter. A suitable plan was decided upon, it was a structure of one room with two cloak-rooms at the entrance. This was built in the spring and summer of 1922. School was held in a vacated house owned by Geo. E. Cornell from May 1, until the new school was ready for occupancy in August of 1922.

Mr. Eric Dain was the teacher that year and the enrollment was thirty five pupils, ranging from grade one to grade eight-inclusive. School was held in this school house with grade nine being taught for four terms, until the children were bussed into the town school in Sept. 1950, with Mr. Ernest Posegate owner and driver of the bus.

The following are names of the teachers who taught in the Swan River School.

Miss Clara Tassel	Sept. 30 — Dec. 1, 1912.
Mr. C. E. Mills	May 5 — Oct. 17, 1913.
Mr. C. J. Spratt	June — Oct. 1914.
Mr. C. J. Spratt	June — Oct. 1915.
Mr. Eric Dain	June — Oct. 1916.
Mr. Eric Dain	May — June 1917.

Miss Esther Ross substituted for the month of July.
Miss Christene Dyde finished Aug. — Oct. 1917.

Miss Alney Minear	May — Oct. 1918.
Miss Cecilia B. Watson	May — Sept. 1919.
Miss Ina Bissell	May — Sept. 1920.



First school built in Swan Valley in 1917.

Left to right: Cecilia Sloan, Christine Denison, Evelyn Field, Mary Field, Florence Johns, Ronald Field, Hercel Sloan, Silas Stuck, Mr. Dane (teacher), Naomi Field, Josie Denison, Jean Moore, Louise Field, Cynthia Grono, Harold Sloan, Tom Grono, Art Field and Bill Denison.

Miss Aileen Miller	May — Sept. 1921.
Mr. Eric Dain	May — Dec. 1922.
Mr. Wm. E. Webber	May — Dec. 1923.
Mr. Albert B. Wetter	May — Dec. 1924.



1924

Left to right, back row: Jean Moore, Helen McLean, Delta Brown, Harold Sloan, Frank Brown.

Left to right, centre row: Madeline Dove, Margaret Gallagher, Agnes Foley, Ruth Brown, Sylvia Dove, Ben Brown, Clifford Sloan, Pat Foley.

Left to right, front row: John Gallagher, Raymond Sloan, Ralph Hagen, John Hunt, Lou Foley.

Mr. Albert B. Wetter	May — Dec. 1925.
Mr. Albert B. Wetter	March — Dec. 1926.
Mr. Albert B. Wetter	Feb. — June 1926.
Mr. C. G. Hicks	Oct. 1926 — June 1927.
Mr. Robert Morrison	Oct. 1927 — March 1928.
Mr. J. A. Perrie	May 1928 — Sept. 1928.
Miss M. J. Taylor	Oct. 1928 — June 1929.
Miss Monte J. Thomas	Oct. 1929 — June 1930.
Miss Evelyn Brown	Sept. 1930 — June 1931.
Miss Evelyn Brown	Sept. 1931 — June 1932.
Miss Marie Bakken	Sept. 1932 — June 1933.
Miss Marie Bakken	Sept. 1933 — June 1934.
Miss Helen Sinnott	Sept. 1934 — June 1935.
Mr. Earl B. Read	1935-36
Mr. Earl B. Read	1936-37
Mr. Earl B. Read	1937-38
Mrs. Anne Green	1938-39



Valley School, 1926-27. Mr. C. G. Hicks (teacher).

Left to right, back row: John Hunt, Lou Foley, John Gallagher, Ralph Hagen, Margaret Gallagher, Wayne Sloan, Pat Foley, Jean Moore, Virginia and Dorothy Sloan.

Left to right, second row: Evelyn Hunt, Beatrice Sloan, Agnes Foley, Esther Sloan.

Left to right, front row: Thomas Gallagher, Stanley Sloan, Elisabeth Cornell, Murial Onstine, Bertha Sloan, Myrl Onstine and Raymond Sloan.

Mrs. Anne Green	1939-40
Mrs. Anne Green	1940-41 with
Mrs. Carl Bannister	substituting
	Jan. — Feb. 1941



Carole Bannister standing beside the Swan River teacherage.

Mrs. Anne Green	1942-1943
Miss Julia Cargan	Oct. 1943 — June 1944.
Miss Julia Cargan	1944-45.
Miss Julia Cargan	1945-46.
Miss Lillas Lillo	
supervised	Oct. 1946 — June 1947
Mrs. Norman Hunt	1947-48



Miss Julia Cargon (Mrs. Norman Hunt), 1944.
Left to right: Vivian Sloan, Viney Tanghe, Gene Sloan, Leo Sloan, Mildred Sloan, Lawrence Lisk, Douglas Cornell, Ervin Sloan, Lawrence Sloan, Marion Rutledge, June Quinn, Arlene Rutledge, and Francis Lisk.
Left to right, kneeling: David Curtis, Bobby Adams, Florence Adams and Keith Onstine.

Mr. Arthur Thatcher 1948-49
Miss Helen Alexander supervised 1949 — April 1950
Miss Leah Phillips May — June 1950

During these years Mr. McKillop remained as Secretary- reasurer, until he resigned in Jan. 1918 and was succeeded by Mr. R. H. (Ross) Patterson who continued until the Annual Meeting on Feb. 21, 1920, when Mr. McKillop was nominated back in office, he remained then until the Annual Meeting held Jan. 27, 1928. Mrs. S. M. (Geo. E) Cornell was then nominated and held the post until the annual meeting Feb. 14, 1944, when she resigned. Mrs. M. E. (Jean) Quinn was nominated and acted as secretary until 1946 when the Slave Lake School Division #53 was formed by the Department of Education in Edmonton, under the direction of Hon. R. E. Ansley Minister of Education.

The following rural Public School Districts would be included in the Division.

Swan River S.D. #2750



Swan Valley school, 1924. Moved to Faust in 1954.

Slave Lake S.D. #3197
Faust S.D. #3782
Kinuso S.D. #3868
Canyon Creek S.D. #4578
Driftpile S.D. #4655
Eula Creek S.D. #4678
Assineau S.D. #4715
Widewater S.D. #4872

The School Division was then divided into three subdivisions as follows.

Subdivision #1 comprising of the following

Slave Lake S.D. #3197
Canyon Creek S.D. #4578
Assineau S.D. #4715
Widewater S.D. #4872

Subdivision #2 comprising of—

Swan River S.D. #2750
Kinuso S.D. #3868
Eula Creek S.D. #4678

Subdivision #3 comprising of—

Faust S.D. #3782
Driftpile S.D. #4655

Mr. R. Williamson of Canyon Creek shall be Secretary of the said Division.

The organization meeting of the elected Trustee of each subdivision was held on Wednesday Jan. 10, 1945, at 2:00 p.m. in the secretaries' office in Canyon Creek.

All assets of each School District were to become vested in the board of the division.

The liabilities of each district shall become payable by the divisional board and the board of trustees in each district shall cease to have any powers, duties and functions conferred upon a board of trustees. (This information is taken from a notice received from the Dept. of Education dated Nov. 21, 1944 and held by Mrs. Jean Quinn, local Secretary.

Each district retained a Secretary to do local business and keep in touch with the Divisional Secretary, Mr. Williamson.

After nearly two years the division was enlarged and became the High Prairie School Division #48 in Jan. 1946 due to the amalgamation of the McLennan School Division and the Slave Lake School Division, with main office in High Prairie. (letter held dated Feb. 11, 1946 signed by J. L. Herman, Sec.)

Kinuso School District #3868

In the years 1920 and 1921, due to the number of children in this district it became a must to build a school as the distance to the Valley school was too great although some were attending. However plans went ahead and it was decided to build a two roomed structure and it was to be known as Kinuso Consolidated School. Until this new school could be finished and ready for classes, arrangements were made to hold classes in the U.F.A. Hall. The teachers were Miss Nealy and Miss Cox followed by Mr. Musto and Miss Belle McLennan who were teaching when classes were moved into the new two roomed school. This school continued with sometimes only one teacher for a term to conduct classes to 80-90 pupils in grades one to nine inclusive. Names of all the teachers are not available but to name a few, Miss Leona Blades, Miss Marjorie Jones and Miss McDonnel, Mrs. Hadley, Fred Dumont, Marion and Denilda Hagen and Mr. McConachi. After joining the High Prairie Division and the amalgamation of other school districts such as Eula Creek and the Tortoise



Miss Leona Blades' class 1924-25, in first Kinuso school.



Kinuso School Sr. room — 1939.

school districts it was evident more classrooms were needed and the first Divisional school was built in Kinuso in 1949. This school was given a distinctive official opening on Jan. 4, 1950. A tea given by the students was enjoyed by the officials attending, these



Wednesday was a day of happy celebration at Kinuso, about 200 miles northwest of Edmonton near Slave Lake. A new and distinctive school was opened at the hamlet in the High Prairie School Division. The new building, pictured at top, has as a source of natural lighting, a deep well down the centre of the building, lined with windows. A tea, given by the students, was enjoyed by officials visiting the school Wednesday. Below, left to right, in one of the classrooms during the tour of inspection are: J. J. Schurter, trustee from Slave Lake; J. L. Herman, secretary of the division; Dr. J. B. T. Wood, chairman of the division; William Pollack, a trustee. Hon. Ivan Casey, minister of education and L. A. Broughton, superintendent of the High Prairie School Division.—(Story on Page 13.)

Distinctive new school officially opened in Kinuso.

being Mr. C. J. Schurter, trustee from Slave Lake. J. L. Herman, Secretary of the Division, Dr. J. B. T. Wood, Chairman of the Division, Wm. Pollack, a trustee, Hon. Ivan Casey, Minister of Education and L. A. Broughton, Superintendent of High Prairie School Division.

At the time it was believed to be the only one of its type of construction in Canada. Its construction has resulted in happier school children from Slave Lake



Intermediate room, 1948. C.W. Corbett (teacher).

Left to right: Doreen Kush, Henry Ewanick, Alvin Lillo, Mary Wilton, Jimmy Fuelkell, Nan Lysne, Evelyn Stevenson, Charles Webber, Coreen Myron, Mary Kirtio, Bernie Shornack, Audry Churchill, Arlene Rutledge, Doug Stevenson, Jack Crosby, Gordon Holgate, James Morin, and Clara Davis.

on the east and to Driftpile to the west. The outstanding feature being the perfect natural lighting. It is with this lighting system that the school takes on its distinction, the type of building providing uniform light



Mr. Henry Lysne's class in 1952, grade 12 in Kinuso.

to each of the six class rooms. The type of lighting is known as well type windows thus besides the outer windows on the walls, other windows cut down the centre of the building being built in a deep well in the middle of the construction. The well being about seven feet deep and twelve feet wide. (The above paragraph is taken from a clipping in the Edmonton Journal Jan. 1950, written by Jack Deakin).

On the evening of May 9, 1956, great billows of smoke and flame were seen gushing from the building and although hundreds of people appeared on the scene to do their bit in saving the building, it was too late and too extensive to fight with the equipment available so very little was saved. However the



Kinuso's 10-room school which burned down.

children had a few days holiday until temporary classrooms and equipment were arranged for. Classes were held in the U.F.A. Hall, United Church, Tabernacle and a building on the McLaughlin property.



Burning of the 10-room school in Kinuso.

The Divisional board went to work immediately on plans to construct a new school and work progressed rapidly and was in use in Sept. 1956. There was no official opening.

In 1958 an Auditorium, Gymnasium and four classrooms were added. In 1960 two additional



Mr. and Mrs. Lysne. Mr. Lysne was principal in Kinuso for many years.

classrooms were added and in 1964 a new wing consisting of Industrial Arts, Home Ec., Administration offices and a science lab were built and officially opened June 1964.

Kinuso school now has fourteen classrooms and two Vocational classrooms.

The number of teachers for the 1966-67 term is 16 with an enrolment of 324 students in grades one to twelve inclusive.

A few years later it was decided by the Board of Trustees to move grade twelve to Slave Lake town where the population was growing rapidly due to the oil boom and other industries, now Kinuso has grades one to eleven inclusive with seventeen teachers and an enrollment of 250 students.

The following are the teachers for the 1978-79 term;

Mr. Allan Crawford — Principal
 Mr. M. S. Vawda — Vice Principal First Semester
 Mr. Kerry McElroy — Vice Principal Second Semester
 Mrs. Arlene Tanasiuk
 Mrs. Jean Jordon — Home Ec.
 Mr. James — (Lawrence Sajjad)
 Mr. Harold Cutts
 Mrs. Corinne Czelenski
 Mrs. Sally Rice
 Miss Suzanne Belanger
 Mrs. Dorothy Sloan
 Mr. D. Radcliffe
 Mrs. Karen McLaughlin
 Mrs. Natalie Dow
 Mr. L. Byrne
 Miss Carol Keay



Mrs. Jean Jordon (teacher), Grade 3, 1952.

Left to right, top row: Jimmie Barbeau, Roy Gaulan, Kenny Laroque, Glen Moreland, Gordon McRee, Johny Roseneau, Lee Bajer, Ronald Wood, Clarence Griffen, Dennis Sloan.

Left to right, centre row: Dennis Sound, Billy Babcock, June Sound, Susan Sound, Edna Quinn, Roy Killeen, Earl Sloan, Kenny Sloan.

Left to right, bottom row: Bernice Card, Elisabeth Sound, Diane Dow, Helen Skrynyk, Annie Courtorelle, Phyliss Moulton, Elizabeth Erickson, Verna Babcock, Leona Hill, Mary Sound, Joan Labby.

Mrs. Pat Mossman — Resource Room
 Miss Drudge — Resource Room
 Mr. R. LeNive — Industrial Arts.
 Mrs. Mona Sloan — Secretary
 Mrs. Rose Lillo — Librarian

Miss Pelegia Karpa — Kindergarten and Play School Instructor

Seven Day Adventist School

This was a school sponsored and operated by the church members of the Seven Day Advents. It was a two story log structure built on the property of Mr. Friend Fraser, classrooms were on the ground floor and living quarters upstairs.



Adventist School — 1919, on Fraser's farm in Swan Valley. Back row, left to right: Silas Stuck, Edward Foley, Delta Brown, Cecilia Sloan, Mr. Hayward (teacher), Hercl Sloan, Reubin Brown. Front row, left to right: Jimmie Frost, Clifford Sloan, Ben Brown, Pat Foley, Iden Stanley, Francis Swanson, Harold Sloan, Frank Brown, Lee Swanson, Austin and Edith Stanley.

This school was opened November 1918, with Mrs. Hayward (later Mrs. Wm. Simpson of Enilda) as the first teacher, other teachers were Mr. and Mrs. Robinson.

In 1921, due to a few difficulties the school was closed and the children attended the Valley school.

Eula Creek School

submitted by Fred Prichuck

In the summer of 1933 the settlers in the district met at the home of Fred Prichuck, Sr. to hold a meeting for the purpose of forming a school district and building a school.

After much correspondence with the Dept. of Education, Eula Creek School District #4678 was organized, boundaries set, heads counted and a grant of \$780 was authorized for the building of the school.



Eula Creek School #4678.

Jack Erricson donated the north-west corner of his

quarter for the school grounds, Mr. Rand was hired as the head carpenter, the work started. Logs were cut on the Erricson quarter and brought to the location where they were hewn and a log building of 24' by 34' was erected.

Taxes were worked off at the rate of \$1.80 a day. After the taxes were paid, labour was donated. Everyone pitched in, the \$780 paid for the lumber, shingles, windows, nails and carpenters wages.

Mr. Rand was a craftsman, and his wages were \$1.80 a day, because he was to be paid.



Eula Creek class, 1937-38.

He made a fine job of the building even making the desks.

Dressed lumber for the building was \$25 per thousand delivered, shingles \$6 per square.

The school opened for the fall term of 1935 with an enrollment of fourteen students and with Mr. Russel Simmons as the first teacher.



Eula Creek school — May 1939. Back row: Marjorie Erricson. Second row: Mary Prichuk, Nellie Erricson, Rita Simmons. Third row: Lois Erricson, Usta Prichuk, Mr. Simmons and his girls.

Kinuso School (1946 - 1956)

by W. H. Lysne

From 1946 - 1956, I had the privilege of being the Principal of the Kinuso School. My wife, Beth, was a member of the Elementary Staff. Our two girls, Nan

and Gayle, attended school there, until graduation. We look back with pride, and admiration on the ten years, in which the Kinuso School expanded from the three room school to that of a twelve room school, serving the whole Lake area. Modern buses conveyed the Junior and High school students from all points along the Lake, and also the Public School children from the nearby rural schools. The children from the Reserve were also integrated.

First, let me relate our 1946 experience, when we arrived in Kinuso. To our amazement, the promised six room school was still in the planning stage, and the five room teacherage was only a two room structure, and a one room rural school, brought in from Eula Creek. The teacherage consisted of two rooms, and a long woodshed, well stocked with firewood.

What could we do? We arrived there with a truck load of furniture. At that time there were no telephones in Kinuso, so I could not contact the High Prairie Office.

In my desperation, I removed all the furniture from the teacherage, and set it outside. Our own furniture then filled the cottage. Somehow, we managed until I converted the woodshed into a bed room, and a kitchen. We remained there until we purchased the "Turner" home.

Finally, the new six room school was built. The school attendance expanded faster than the building

program, so again we had classrooms in various places throughout the Village. Four additional rooms were added on to the six room structure. The expansion continued, and again we operated school in the old two room structure. A Home Economics department was opened in the former one room High School.

Each year the graduation class became bigger and bigger. A large number of these "grads," went on to institutions of higher learning, and many of them are today professional people in various parts of the Province. Our own two girls graduated from the Kinuso School, and to this day they look back with a great deal of pride, and respect for the school.

The teaching staff in the Kinuso School was second to none better in the Province. The Lake area attracted good teachers, and all the schools along the Lake were always fully staffed. Indeed, teaching in Kinuso was a gratifying experience.

By 1956, the Kinuso School consisted of twelve rooms, and a Home Economics Department, serving the Junior and High School. Our objective had been reached. We now had one teacher for each grade, and a three teacher High School.

All was going well when the big fire shattered our hopes for the future. We watched with sadness as our beautiful school became a heap of ashes.



Left to right: Bob Adams, Ross Adams, Lloyd Adams on their way to the Valley school.



1926 Dodge — Moore and Quinn car taking children to school. Left to right: Bobby Adams, Gene Sloan, Marvin Hunt, Jack Kelly (back), Clarence Quinn, Marjorie Hunt. Vivian Sloan and June Quinn in back seat.



Children going to Valley School — 1941.



Class of 1946. Mr. W.H. Lysne (teacher).



Kinuso School (Sr. room).

Left to right, back row: Don McLaughlin, Dorothy Ihde, Thomas Gallagher, Susan McLaughlin, Edgar Hill, Myrtle Whitecotton, George King, May Stevenson, Margaret Gallagher, Annie Misco, Florence Stevenson, Mildred Lyness, and Iva Lillo.

Left to right, centre row: Merle Olsen, Hilda Bale, Hazel Helmer,

Betty Helmer, Thelma Bowen, Ruth Helmer, Flora Chalifoux, Marion Walker, and Mrs. Ihde (teacher).

Left to right, front row: Fred L'Hirondelle, Harry Walker, Joe Langford, Leroy Shornack, Robert Lyness, Louis Olsen, Julius Tanghe, Vincent Rice, Arend Kool, Don Wilton, Norman Sprott, and Fred Prichuk.



Going to an A.T.A. meeting, 1940.

Left to right: Mary (Stephenson) McArther, Ethel (Aihens) White, Carole Bannister, Al McEacheran, Audry Rice.



Kinuso school Grade 11-12 in 1970.

Chapter Five

Railroad

E.D. and B.C. Railway (N.A.R.)

Started west from Edmonton in 1911.

Contractors — J. D. McArthur

Put together by Vera McLaughlin, using material from Edmonton Archives, letters from Mr. Swift and articles from the Journal.

I believe I am the oldest citizen now living in Kinuso, that came in the country from Edmonton to Swan River, *with* the railroad, not *on* the railroad.

In 1913, I came with my parents when I was five years old to Smith, Alberta, which was the end of the steel. Then on April 4, 1914 we came to Swan River.

The railroad bridge over the Athabasca wasn't finished but a locomotive (engine) could cross the bridge if it went very slow. My mother and father and I stood behind the engineer and the coal bin of the engine and crossed to this side of the Athabasca River. We rode on a flat car for several miles and made the rest of the journey to the Swan River on a handcar run by a sectionman.



The first "Railroad Bridge" over the Swan River — 1913-14.

1914, according to Windsor Rice's diary. It didn't go any farther than a small tressel a short distance west of the station that first winter. Roy Field tells of there being a spur built between the tressel and the station, where the engines could back around, and return to Smith, where there was a round house.



Building the Railroad Bridge over the Athabasca River — on the E.D. & B.C. railroad at Smith — which was the end of the steel at that time — 1913-14.



The year the Station changed its name from Swan River to Kinuso was November 6th 1921.

The bridge over the Swan River wasn't completely finished so Dad and Mother walked up to the Swan River Station, a distance of one mile. Dad carried me on his back.

The first train came to Swan River in the fall of



The first engine to come into the crossing at Kinuso (Swan River) — 1914.



Railroad bridge over the Swan River. Notice burning log jam in river.



Water Tank at Swan River — built in 1913-14.

Up until 1914, the settlers in this area had no outlet to the outside world but by water, which was down Lesser Slave Lake to the Slave River and on to Athabasca, or up the lake to Grouard. You could drive the whole distance by horses or oxen; on the ice in winter or the wet muddy roads in summer; around the lake or over the Klondyke Trail. This trip could be upwards to a month.

A quote from J. W. Judges "Early Railroading"

The vast expanse of the Peace River country had long been known. Many thousands of acres of virgin land were awaiting the plow, but owing to lack of transportation little effort was made to settle there. Some venturesome people had made the trip to Grande Prairie over the Edson Trail, but it was not until the year 1911 that the Charter was granted the Edmonton Dunvegan, and British Columbia Railway, and was acted upon, and settlement of the Peace River country began in earnest.

The Provincial Government of the day turned over the construction of the railway (E. D. and B. C.) now N.A.R. to J. D. McArthur. J. D. as he was known was a big man, well over 6 ft. and of Scottish ancestry and had a natural capacity for leadership. Along with the desire to build the road, Mr. McArthur was ambitious to see the country settled.

From the Edmonton Bulletin, Aug. 20th, 1912.

The first engine for the Edmonton Dunvegan and B.C. line will arrive in Edmonton during the next day or so, and will probably bring with it the track laying machine which is to lay the track on the line to Peace River at the rate of 1 mile per day.

Quote from Edmonton Bulletin, July 6, 1912.

"First rail laid this morning on the E.D. and B.C. Railway. Workmen on the E.D. and B.C. Railway began work on the tracks at the Edmonton terminals yesterday. A start is being made laying the steel by hand, but as soon as there is sufficient track laid to allow use of the steel laying machinery being used; the latest equipment, together with a large force of men will be put on. The steel at present in the yards is sufficient for the first seven or eight miles of track which will be laid in the next few weeks."



Laying the E.D. & B.C. railroad — 1914.

Quotes from The Third Column by "The Old Timer," April 17, 1914.

"The E.D. and B.C. began to push its way north to the Peace River country in the winter of 1911. Two years later it had reached Smith, where it was to cross the Athabasca on the swing west below Lesser Slave Lake. While a steel bridge was being built across the Athabasca, a temporary structure was thrown across the river so that track laying could continue. The soggy ground gave the railway people the same headaches the oil drillers are facing today. Spongy tote-roads, mud and "sink holes" made winter the best season for hauling. The Smith-Sawridge section of the E.D. and B.C. route saw to the first influx of settlers in the winters of 1913-14. They rode to the end of the steel at Smith, crossed the river on the temporary bridge and headed for the last frontier — "The Peace River Country or Bust."



The arrival of the Passenger Train in the town Of Kinuso was the big excitement in the early days. Harry Walker in his first car "The Maxwell."



A Sunday gathering to watch the train come — providing it came that day — 1916.

The next spring in 1914-15 more settlers pushed north over this leg of the new pathway around Lesser Slave Lake. Construction trains hauled farm equipment, settlers, goods and machinery to stopping points along the way."

The Railroad

Following is a copy of a letter received by Mr. A. Thorburn, from a former station agent, Mr. H. H. Swift, on April 12, 1968.

Dear Mr. Thorburn:

I have your letter of April 8, outlining the historical project your local committee is undertaking.

The first operating timetable that I have record of, is No. 1, effective Nov. 7, 1915. The train twice weekly left Edmonton from the 121st. street station at 7:30 p.m. Mondays and Thursdays and arriving at Swan River the next morning at 4:25 a.m.



One of the "Early Trains" at the crossing by the Water Tank, on its way over The Swan River — 1915-16.

Returning, the train arrived eastbound at 240k (Midnight) and arrived at Edmonton on Wednesdays and Saturdays at 9 a.m. This train only went as far as McLennan, with the balance of the line being under construction. Timetable No. 2 was effective May 14, 1916. It showed the train leaving Edmonton twice weekly at 183K, Swan River 3:25 a.m., and arriving at Grande Prairie that evening at 193K. It left Grande Prairie at 183K, twice weekly passing Swan River at 3:25 a.m., arriving at Edmonton on Wednesdays and Saturdays at 12:30 p.m.

I note that the town was known as Swan River until the timetable of Nov. 6, 1921, when the name of Kinuso first appeared on the timetable. The train then left the C.P.R. depot at 109th street at 5:00 p.m. arriving at Kinuso the next a.m. at 4:17. Returning, it left Kinuso at 11:28 p.m. and arrived at Edmonton at 10:45 a.m. on Wednesdays and Saturdays.

As for the Tenure of station agents, I recall that D. M. Myron went to Kinuso in the winter of 1931-32, and was pensioned March 31, 1959. This was a period of about 28 years.

The first officials named on the timetable No. 1 was W. R. Smith, General Manager and R. M. Halpenny, Superintendent. The line was then being operated by

J. D. MacArthur, the contractor who built the major part of the E.D. & B.C.

In the early years, trains were about the only method of public transportation and many of your town's early citizens will recognize the names of the old railway men. From the inauguration of the first passenger train in 1915, Kenny McLennon was the road's senior passenger conductor. He handled the "varnish" on the Canadian Pacific for years and was somewhat of a typical passenger man. He was a dignified white haired rather gruff appearing man, but this in outward appearance only. His every attention was given to mothers travelling with small tots.

Brakemen were instructed to assist passengers in every way possible, and he ran what railway men call a "taut train." He practically objected to any form of intoxication on the part of the passengers and those who made a practise of roaming up and down the coaches. They would be warned to quiet down or "off they would go." And I have been on board when I saw his brakeman do just that.

One early news agent was Charley Wilton who worked the train in McLennon's time. Few small towns stocked magazines to any extent in those days and "Charley" had subscribers who boarded the trains at many stops to get their week's reading material. Beginning in 1926, the line operated a diner under Steward Quigley. Their most attractive item on the menu was usually Slave Lake white fish, which was procured fresh each trip from fishermen from Faust. The meal was modest for a dining car, \$1.24 and was quite popular up to the end of the war in 1945. Traffic then declined and the car was taken off. The two sleepers were opened by porters, Dick Cross and Harley Walker. Two excellent colored employees who were well known to many northerners. The Way freight conductors for many years were big John Carley and Jean McLaughlin, also well known in their time. I do not recall the very early station agents as my recollections only go back 43 years to 1924. At that time J. J. Devers was agent at Kinuso. I relieved him in the fall of that year when he went to another assignment. F. E. McLeod took over at that time. Before Jack Devers, Ira Card was also an early holder of that agency.

W. T. Bill Turner held the agency prior to Jack Devers and I believe it was there when a shooting tragedy occurred between the local police constable and a man said to be involved in some liquor matter. They killed each other with gunfire. At the time I relieved Devers, Constable Don (Scotty) Cameron was the Alberta Provincial Police Constable there. When he left, Mr. Heal of the R.C.M.P. came.

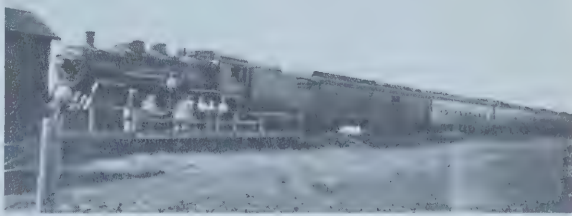
During my short tenure in 1924, I recall some of the merchants were Don Pierce, the Rices, Harry Walker, and the elder Vanderagens.

The school was quite small and one teacher I recall was Leona Blades. The station resembled in every detail, several others built by the railway construction department early in 1916. These had two living rooms downstairs in back of the office and waiting room and three rooms upstairs. The front part was occupied with a waiting room, office and freight shed, painted

box car red.



Railroad Crew: Foreman, Mike Skrynyk, Victor Twin, Louie Cardinal.



The last "Steam Train" seen at Kinuso. The Steam Passenger train's sleepers and diners ceased quite a few years previous — 1955-56.

The J. D. McArthur regime built several of the same types of stations at Busby, Jarvie, Westlock, Kinuso, High Prairie, Bon Accord, Boyle and a later one of similar style at Waterways. No basements, surface foundations were heated by the usual big pot bellied type of coal stove. Much in vogue in early depots. None of these structures were insulated and all had one thing in common. They were cold as sin in the winter time.

The oldest surviving agent in point of service is Ira Card living at Grande Prairie. I believe he came to the E.D. and B.C. in 1919.

New Cafe Service

Taken from the Bulletin, June 9, 1916.

The cafe service on the E.D. & B.C. train leaving for the north on Mondays and Thursdays, which is now in charge of Sam Freeman, is very much appreciated by the travelling public. Not only is the service good but the dining car is so well arranged that it is a pleasure to eat in it. Fine napery and beautiful flowers show the excellent taste of the caterer and the reasonable prices make the service a decided convenience to the trip to the northland.

Crowded Train Leaves For North

Taken from the Bulletin, May 30, 1916.

Passengers Coming Late Had to Content Themselves With Day Coaches



Train wreck — 3 miles east of Kinuso.

Not a berth was empty in the two pullmans of the train which left for the north last evening from the E.D. & B.C. station, and those who came at the last moment thinking that they might secure an upper if the lower ones were all taken up, had to content themselves with the accommodation provided by the ordinary coaches. And here there was not to much room to spare. It was a well filled train and the five coaches had as passengers business men from Edmonton, a few tourists and residents going back home after a visit to the capital. The train was proof, if such be needed at this time, of the wisdom of the policy that has led to the provision of railway facilities for the development of the wonderful northland. In one pullman there were 16 berths and in the other 14, the remainder of the space in the car being utilized for dining purposes. Since the second pullman has been operated — this is the third run — the traffic each trip has been increasing and early yesterday every berth was taken. Most of these travellers were bound for the Peace River country.

End Of An Era: NAR Finally Stops

"Take Notice that effective 1 June, 1974, Northern Alberta Railways Company passenger trains numbers 1 and 2 between, Edmonton Alberta and Dawson Creek, British Columbia will be discontinued."

Dated April 16 of this year, and signed by NAR

General Manager Ken Perry, the notice marks the end of a service which has declined in operation since 1943, its peak year when over 318,000 persons used the train to travel between Dawson Creek and Edmonton.

The losses in the cost of operation of the line has been nearly a half-million dollars in the past two years, and this year's loss will approach that for the time the trains have been running. Ken Perry says that line has actually been losing money for the past 30 years, although a full train was running for some time six days a week. In efforts to cut costs, different types of trains, including a railiner were used, but this had no effect.

Approximately 2,000 persons per year now use the line and Mr. Perry says that this doesn't even cover the cost of the fuel.

He blames other modes of transportation for the demise of the service, including bus and the automobile. He says the final blow was delivered in 1959 with the completion of the highway to Valleyview from Edmonton.

According to some active supporters of the line though, the fault lies with the railway itself for neglecting its passengers in favor of freight.

Dr. H. W. Fish of McLennan has actively fought discontinuation in the past several years, and backs up his demands for better service by illustrating that a person can't even get to a railway station in the winter to board a train if they want to because of snow. However, his, and other interested parties' efforts, have proved fruitless.

The Railway Transport Committee of the Canadian Transport Commission decided on April 11 to allow the NAR to discontinue its service for good.

The trains, making two round trips per week, Monday and Thursday, will discontinue on the 1st of June.

Mr. Perry indicates that in actual fact, few will miss the service. In 1971 there were two trips between Edmonton and Dawson Creek on which there were no passengers. In November of the same year, there was a trip with only two passengers. In January of 1972, the service earned a total of \$465 from passengers. In February of the same year it earned \$401.

The Notice concluded "The last passenger train will leave Edmonton, Alberta for Dawson Creek, B.C. at 2000 hours, 30 May, 1974."



End of Era — When the Kinuso Station was bought by and moved to Ron Krimbill's farm.

Chapter Six

Veterans



The Cenotaph in front of the Legion Hall.

Honor Roll

An effort has been made by the Book Committee to obtain all the names of those men and women who served with the Armed forces in World War I and II, from the Kinuso area.

**Denotes those who were killed in action.

World War I

Adams, Harry	McDonald, James
Bales, Nels	McKinley, Curt
Brian, Milo	McNeil, Scotty
Byrnes, Dennis**	McNeil, Tom
Cline, Charles J.	Miscow, Mike
Cline, Harvey	Myron, Dave
Dewis, Frank	Stone, Joseph
Ekanger, Mons	Sheldon, Fred
Griffen, Henry	Sutherland, James
Grono, Wilfred	Rice, Windsor
Gordon, William**	Thomson, Hugh**
Hunt, Wilfred	

World War II

Adams, Leslie G.	Foley, Lou A.**	Olsen, S. Jean
Bajer, Chester	Foley, Patrick G.	Olsen, L. Allen
Bajer, M.	Green, Paul G.	Onstine, Norman
Beasley, Stephen	Grono, Willard W.	Onstine, Roy M.
Beasley, William A.	Helmer, Edward C.**	Patterson, Marion
Beagles, Raymond L.	Helmer, John S.	Posegate, Frank
Benjamin, Joe	Helmer, Roy W.	Prichuk, Fred
Boisvert, Leo	Holgate, Herbert	Rice, Vincent
Bowen, Fred	Hunt, John C.	Roe, Ernest L.
Bowen, Richard L.	Ihde, Edward A.	Roe, Leo
Brandson, Leo	Kirtio, John	Sheldon, Stanton F.
Clark, Charles J.	Landford, Joe H.	Shornack, Leroy
Croad, Reginald E.	Langford, John D.	Shornack, Wesley L.
Chalifoux, Joe	L'Hirondelle, Fred L.	Stefaniak, Frank J.
Churchill, Bert	L'Hirondelle, Victor P.	Stefaniak, Stanley
Churchill, Elmer	Lillo, Lilas	Stevenson, Roy M.
Churchill, James	Lillo, Marvin	Stevenson, John F.
Churchill, Mary	Lyness, Richard J.	Stevenson, Walter J.
Churchill, Muriel	Lyness, W. Robert	Shoop, William G.
Churchill, Robert	Mallard, Lorne	Tanghe, Alfred
Cornell, Lorne G.	McLaughlin, Donald F.	Tanghe, Julius**
Curtis, Benjamin	McLaughlin, Douglas S.	Tanghe, Reginald
Cuthbert, Armony E.**	McLaughlin, Robert A.	Thomson, Margaret D.
Cuthbert, Ethel	McLaughlin, Stanley G.	Turner, Jack L.
Cuthbert, Phillip T.	McKinley Elmer J.	Vandermark, Charles
Dewar, John K.	McKinley, George N.	Wasylyk, Joseph
Ekardt, Clifford D.	Miscow, John	Winters, Steve F.
Field, Ronald J.	Miscow, Mike	Yakymyshyn, Nick



Joe and Fred Tanghe — World War II.



Windsor Rice, World War I.



Donald Chalifoux, Philomine's grandson, being awarded with the Queen's Jubilee Medal.



Sam Sloan, 1918, American Army.



Curt McKinley, World War I.



Harry Adams, World Wars I and II.



Fred L'Hirondelle — World War II.



John Hunt.



Vin Rice on a 4000 lb. "Cookie" R.C.A.F. Craft, January 1945.



Ivan Morland served in Second World War.



Lorne Mallard.



Left to right: Martin and Chester Bajer in Rome in World War II.



Ted Cuthbert, World War II.



Left to right: Freddy Prichuk, Joe Langford, Roy Helmer, Jimmie Churchill.



Left to right: Allen Olsen, Jean Olsen, and Charley Van Der Mark.



John Stevenson, Marvin Lillo, and Jim Churchill.



Stan Sheldon.



Harry Phillips, World War II.



Victor L'Hirondelle, World War II.



Mike L'Hirondelle, World War II.



Julius Tanghe. Lost his life in World War II.



Lou Foley, World War II.



A.E. (Bus) Cuthbert — World War II.



Pat Foley and Cliff Eckardt in Rome, World War II.



John Kirtio, World War II.



Pete Warner, World War II.



Fred Tanghe.



Roy Onstine.



Joe Chalifoux, World War II.

Chapter Seven

Family History

Ernest Abel and Family

Ernest Abel raised his family of thirteen children in the District of Beaton, north of Prince Albert, Saskatchewan. His wife passed away in 1959 leaving him alone to raise nine of the children still at home.

Most of the children came to Alberta to find jobs. After the youngest child had finished school and left home, Ernest decided to find work elsewhere, first going to B.C. to work as a security guard. In the fall of 1973 he stopped for a visit in Kinuso and has made it his home here along with seven of his children. Two of the other three children migrated to Alberta, and one has made her home in Saskatchewan.



Ernest Abel family — 1967.

Back left to right: Betty, Jean, Josephine, Rosaire, Lionel, Hubert, Evelyn, Vernon.

Middle row: Victor, Mrs. Sophie Czelenski, Barbara, Clair.

Front row: Ernest, Richard, David.

HUBERT — born May 22, 1940 in Dormey, Saskatchewan is the second eldest son and he came to Kinuso in 1957. He worked as a mechanic for Bill Card. He married Barbara Griffen, they have three children; Amy, Lee and Tim. They live in Edmonton.



Hubert, Barbara, Amy, Tim and Lee Abel.

LIONEL — born April 10, 1942 in Dormey, came here in 1958, worked for Bill Card, Imperial Lumber and the Department of Highways. He married Sophie McRee in April of 1966, they have two children;



Sophie, Marcel and Leo Abel.

Marcel and Sherry. He has worked in High Level and Edmonton and now lives in Kinuso where he farms and trucks.

ROSAIRE — born Nov. 28, 1943, came to this area in 1961 to work for Bill Card. He took some mechanic school, then moved around a bit before going to



Rosaire and Lois Abel.

Valleyview, where he met and married Lois Schlender, they have four children; Charlene, Cindy, Cheryl and Crystal.

JOSEPHINE — born July 22, 1946 in Dormey, Saskatchewan came here with Rosaire in July 1964. Met and married Elvin Samuelson, they have three children; Evelyn, born 1965, Elvin, born in 1966 and Everett, born in 1973. Jo has been very active in many organizations since coming to Kinuso, such as Brownies, 4H, Secretary of the Agriculture Society since 1975, worked at Kodiak Lodge as cook and waitress, Department of Highways for three years, worked for Alberta Forest Service for one year and for Bert Churchill Logging as cook.

JEAN — born February 28, 1948 came to Kinuso in



Ken Killeen, Jean, Rick and Terry.

1964, worked awhile then moved to Edmonton with husband Bill, who was killed in a car accident while on the job. They have two children; Terry born in 1966 and Ricky born in 1973. Jean and the boys came back to Kinuso to live in 1975.

BETTY — born March 3, 1949 came to Kinuso in 1965; has worked at different places such as Folsom's Catering, Canyon Creek Hotel and Kodiak Lodge. Betty left Kinuso for a few years, she married Bob Locke and had two sons; Dale and Wade, they lived



Donald and Betty Dow with their children Dale and Wade.

in B.C. for awhile then returned to Kinuso, where she now makes her home. Since returning she has been employed by Alberta Forest Service, C&L Logging and Senior Citizens' Grant Projects.

DAVID — born June 26, 1950, came to Kinuso in 1967. He worked in the bush in Wabasca and worked on the oil rigs. Kinuso was his home base and he travelled out to work. He met and later married Brenda Labby, they have two children; Raylene and Kyle. In



David, Brenda, Kyle and Raylene Abel.

March 1978, David went to Scotland on a two year stint with his work, Brenda and family followed in May 1978.

CLAIRE — born on May 9, 1953, came to Kinuso in 1970, worked at the Kodiak Hotel until she met and married Jim Cuthbert. Claire and Jim tried three times to get to High Prairie for their marriage licence, but could not get to High Prairie because of floods three weekends in a row.

Claire and Jim have two children; Lori-Lee and Chad.

BARBARA — born July 4, 1954 came to Kinuso to attend Claire's wedding in 1971 when she made her decision to stay in Kinuso. She lived with Sophie Czelenski until she married Ronald Cuthbert, they have two children; Kandice and Byron, and they now live in Slave Lake.

VICTOR — was born on December 31, 1955, and is the baby of the family. He came to Kinuso in 1974.



Victor, Karen and Jamie Abel.

Victor married Karen Dow and they have two boys; Jamie and Jason. Victor and Karen left Kinuso late in 1978 to live in Edmonton.

Frederick James Adams

Frederick James Adams was born in Yorkshire, England on September 30, 1858. He came to Cape Breton in 1878 and worked in the coal mines there. He met Ellen Forrest in the early 1880's, she was born in Glasgow, Scotland on June 27, 1865 and came to Canada with her parents as a very young girl. Ellen and Jim Adams were married in about 1884 or 85, they lived at a place called Lil-Bras-Dor, for sometime. They had four daughters born there, Rosella, Mabel, Ester and Ada, but unfortunately they lost Rosella and Mabel while very young with diphtheria.

After that they moved to Nanaimo, B.C. where Jim worked in the coal mines for a number of years. They had six more children; Florence, Jim, Harry, Hazel, Leslie and Ellen. He quit the mine in about 1906 and started back in his trade of carpentry. He

built several houses and rented them out up until 1918. He then left Nanaimo, B.C. and came to Kinuso where his son Jim had filed on a homestead, and where his wife and Leslie and Ellen had come 2 or 3 years earlier.

Mrs. Adams kept house for Jimmy, while he worked out at any work there was to do, he even had a trapline south in the hills. The only schooling Leslie and Ellen got was at the Field residence. Mrs. C. R. Field was a teacher and as well as teaching her own she took several others in. Leslie only went to grade iv, he trapped wherever he could and while out with his 22 rifle had an accident. He got shot with his own gun, the bullet lodged under his shoulder blade. The nearest hospital was McLennan and he was taken there but to my knowledge the bullet was never removed.

Ellen returned to the coast and remained there till her passing. Mr. Adams carpentered around and remained here, passing away at his son Jim's home on October 4, 1940.

Mrs. Adams lived with her son Harry on his homestead, later they moved to a quarter he had bought and she passed away on her birthday June 27, 1941. Harry was a veteran of the 1st and 2nd world wars, he tried farming but was not very successful, as his health was never very good.

He took Pearl Ash for his partner in the early 40s, she had a daughter Joan who was 4 or 5 years old at that time. Later they had two sons, Wayne and Russel. Wayne passed away while very young in a train truck accident and he left a young wife. Russel is married now and has a daughter and a son, he also is a truck driver and lives at Spruce Grove. Harry passed away in the hospital in Edmonton September 4, 1965 and his wife passed away at her daughter Joan's home on December 29, 1968.

W. J. Adams

W. J. (Jimmy) came to Kinuso, Spring of 1915, ahead of the N.A.R. stayed with his mother's brother Wm: Forrest for a short time, worked on the R.R. bed and other jobs, also had a trap line south of Kinuso in the Swan Hills. In 1916 he filed on a homestead near Strawberry Creek. His mother's sister Ellen and brother Leslie came in 1917, then his father James came in Spring of 1918.

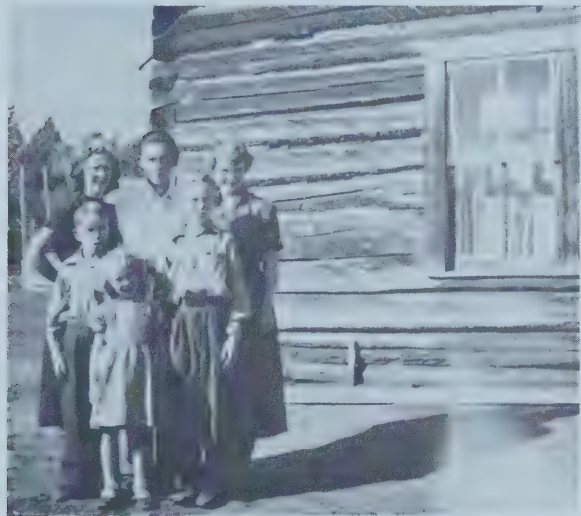
His brother Harry returned from overseas and was retained in a hospital in Vancouver for Veterans, he had been badly shell shocked, then he came to Kinuso, Fall 1919, and took a Homestead at Eula Creek.

Jimmy stayed here working at any jobs there were to be done and left in the 20's sometime to carry on his carpentry in Seattle, Washington for a short time, came back and left again in 1932, went to his sister Florence in Brandon. While there he attended "Tech" school and took an Electricians course. He met Lela Wregget while in Brandon whom he married 21st July, 1934 in Lillooet, B.C. By this time he was employed as a carpenter in the "Gold Mines" at Min-to City, B.C. where our first home was, while there in September, 1935 we had our first son, Bobby in Nanaimo, B.C. Hospital.

Jim's health gave out and we moved back here to Kinuso on March 9th, 1936, rented his brother Harry's ¼ section and a Booth ¼ section. We moved into a house that had been used for a granary, never had been finished, just one partition, but with patience and hard work we lined it up and made four rooms in all and lived very comfortably, that was in April, 1936. We bought a cow, had a little pig given to us and had a neighbour set her incubator with 100 eggs, thus a great experience to follow for me, trading eggs and butter for groceries and shipping cream so we could afford to buy another cow.

Jim's health never really improved, slowly got worse, but he never stopped his keen interest in farming, which he loved and was a very successful one. In the short time he lived here we were able to buy the Harry and Andrew Anderson ½ section August, 1938 and moved onto it, buying another ½ section soon afterwards, but had only a small amount of clearing done, to make the fields larger.

In spring of 1942 Jim had to get his brother Les, who was serving in the Services in Chicoutimi to come home on Farm Leave to help him.



Lela Adams and family: Bobbie, Florence, Lloyd, Ross and Carol.

By 1946 we had a family of five; 3 sons and 2 daughters, Bobbie, Florence, Lloyd, Ross and Carol. In 1945 Jim had a very bad accident while we were thrashing; jumped backwards off the bundle rack onto a broken handle pitch fork, so was in the hospital for 6 weeks, nearly lost him, but he had a wonderful constitution and came through very well.

He went right to his usual daily duties never complaining, bought a big truck, planning on hauling lumber for the winter months, but again his health took a turn. He had a big operation, came through fine. Started right back at work soon after he came home and carried on until May, 1949. From then till November he spent a lot of time in and out of hospital. I lost him in January, 1950.

From then on the way was rough. I was left with five children, the oldest 14 years, youngest 3½ years. The children had their jobs to do plus fight the river to go to school. In the spring of 1950 brother Les had to

leave us, from then on a nephew, Jack Kelly, whom I had raised since he was 14 years old, and the three older ones had all the chores to do, Jack's father took ill so he went to Vancouver to be with him and Bob and Florence had to get the wood out for the year same as their Dad had done and just as big, was just too much heavy work for them all, so I rented and moved to Town, then had to go back to the farm in 1952 and stayed until 1954.

When I remarried in 1954 my daughter Florence was married the same day, mine was a very unhappy one, I divorced him in 1960. My father had bought the home for me in town, so we were quite comfortable, Bobbie was married in 1962 and killed in a car accident March 31, 1964. After we had laid him away I went to my brother's in Brandon, arrived there Friday, April 15, then my daughter phoned me and told me my house had burned to the ground. This happened on April 17, 1964 so I really lost everything.

I had to return to Kinuso as my insurance adjuster wanted to see me. Thankfully, I had it insured, I had to take the money and buy a trailer, in order to have a home for us. The friends got together and gave me a lovely big shower, for which I was very grateful, I stayed here until spring of 1968 then went to Grande Prairie.

I returned to Kinuso January 29, 1976, and bought a house from Florence, we did a lot of improvement on the house inside, also to the outside, as there is always the job of cutting the grass, but it's nice to be here where there is always something to do and home among the family and friends.

Edward Anderson

(As told by Edward Anderson)

The oldest of ten children, Edward was born to Charlie and Rosalie Anderson on October 7, 1915 at Buffalo Bay, Grouard, where Charlie worked as an interpreter for Indian Affairs.



Edward Anderson and his sons.

Edward received his education at the St. Bernard's Mission Residential school in Grouard, leaving school at the age of 15 to help his father.

In 1930, the family moved to Driftpile where Charlie worked as a farm instructor during the summer months and hauled supplies to the Hudson Bay Co. during the winter. They also hauled fish from

Whitefish Lake to Faust.

Edward met his future wife, Rosalie, daughter of Samuel and Theresa Sound, at the Kinuso Sports in 1935. At that time Rosalie worked for Frank and Madeline Place. On January 2, 1936 Edward and Rosalie were married.

Making their home in Driftpile, Edward farmed, hauled freight and worked in the McRae Lumber logging camp. Their first son, Elmer, was born June 9, 1937.

In 1938, Edward and his family moved to Kinuso where Edward did farm work during the summer, threshing in the fall and some freighting to Wabasca during the winter.

In 1939, they lost their 3 month old daughter, Madaline. Their second son, Gordon, was born April 17, 1941, Arthur was born June 23, 1943, William on June 24, 1946 and Joyce on April 30, 1948.

In 1950, Edward started working for Imperial Lumber in Kinuso where he worked for 19 years until the sawmill moved in 1969. He then went to work in the oilfields for his oldest son, Elmer.



Rosalie Anderson with her daughter Joyce and grandson Lyle.

On September 18, 1974 Rosalie passed away suddenly. On April 26, 1975 their son Arthur passed away at Dawson Creek and on December 1, 1978 their oldest son, Elmer, passed away at Slave Lake.

Edward's years in Kinuso with his family were happy years until the death of his wife and sons. In March 1978 Edward moved to High Prairie where he now lives with his sons William and Gordon.

Elmer married Lillian Willier and had five children — Larry, Kevin, Patricia, Allan and Gale. Lillian and children still live in Slave Lake.

Joyce married Fred Courtoirielles and lives in High Prairie with their two children — Lyle and Garrett.

Alvin has one daughter — Leslie.

The adopted son, Wayne Sound and his wife, Rose have one child — Lisa, and live in Slave Lake.

Earle and Joyce Antonson

written by Joyce (Walker) Antonson

Joyce (Walker) Antonson, was born in Edmonton, Alberta, but was brought to their home in Kinuso, by her parents, Harry and Olive Walker, as soon as they could travel with a small baby. She grew up in a lovely

big house in the "Town of Kinuso." She says, "I have many fond memories of that home." She took her primary education, in the local school, but later went to Edmonton to Alberta College, for business training.

It was in Edmonton, in 1941 that she met Earle; he was in the R.C.N.R. They were married in 1945, and went to Victoria to live, but returned the end of that same year — 1945.



Earle Antonson, Bill Walker and wife Pat.

Earle, is from a large family, with lots of cousins, and all long lived. His mother was raised in Boston, Mass. U.S.A., and his father came from a small village in Oslo, Norway. They came to Alberta, Canada, and farmed in a big way. This was where Earle was raised and educated.

Joyce and Earle, have two sons, Skip born in 1943, and Terry born in 1946.

They now make their home on Vancouver Island, in "Sooke" B.C.

THE FOLLOWING IS WRITTEN BY JOYCE ANTONSON, from things she remembers.

I remember — when the "GOVERNOR GENERAL OF CANADA" and his wife, motored to the Peace River Country, — That was "LORD and LADY BESSBOROUGH, — It must have been 1933, as I was only a little girl. Mrs. Myron rushed up to me with a bouquet of flowers from her garden, and told me to give them to "Lady Bessborough" when they stopped in Kinuso — between Walker's and Rice's stores. I can remember my Dad was with me, when I did whatever it was I did, and in what manner; it is hard to say. Dad was in his shirt sleeves as always, and he shook hands with some of these strangers.

The irony of the whole story, came to light as I grew older. Mrs. Myron said, "she chose me as I was the only kid with a clean face." Dad Walker, and Doug McLaughlin, tossed a coin to see who would be the "Mayor" — the loser got the honors. Dad always said that Doug didn't give a fair toss, as Dad was elected Mayor for those few minutes. Apparently, Kinuso didn't know they were arriving until they were upon us. A schedule was difficult in those days, with our dirt roads and heavy rains.

I do remember — I also remember a few years later when, "LORD Tweedsmier" passed through Kinuso

by rail — he had his own private train. We all waited for an hour or so, at the station in preparation to do our thing, and he passed right through without stopping. He waved as he passed — I think “Lady Tweedsmier” must have snitched on us. Maybe she told him that Kinuso had a Mayor with no coat and tie.

I remember — If you have not already heard the story, re Kentucky (Orville) Hall and his wife Lucy, (they had 2 daughters, Marian and Ella). Kentucky and his family were pioneer farmers. She says “I don’t know where he got the name ‘Kentucky’ as she doesn’t think he ever came from Kentucky, but he was from the U.S.A. He was very comical and had a sense of humour and was gifted with the gab, and loved fun. Lucy was quiet and a deep thinker and a very sweet person from all accounts. They were homesteading, and eating a lot of ducks — every time he would go to town, Lucy would ask him to pick up fresh meat, and he invariably forgot, as he would get to town, and start shooting the breeze. One day when he got home, he was telling Lucy he had heard a good joke. He says “you know the E.D. & B.C. railway — I always thought that meant the Edmonton Dunvegon and British Columbia, (which it was), but someone told me today that it means, Easily De-railed and Badly Constructed.” Lucy says, “I thought it meant, Eat Ducks and Be Contented.”

I can remember — when Nadine Hill and I were all dressed up in some old fashioned shoes and clothes we had found in the ware-house; we were probably 8 or 10 years old. My bull dog “Pug” came home full of porcupine quills. We both bawled and howled as we were so upset. We took him to Dad Walker and he sent us to Matt. Whitecotton with the dog. Matt. was just beautiful to us. He took the dog from us, comforted us and sent us away, then pulled all the quills out. I never forgot that; we almost lost “Pug” that time but thanks to Matt, he pulled him through, and that meant a lot to us kids.

George Armitage

(As told by George Armitage)

George Armitage was born in Wauchope, Saskatchewan on March 28, 1912. He lived in Prince Albert for sometime before moving to this area in 1947. He brought his TD9 Cat and his 1945 Fargo truck in the hope of finding work in High Prairie. During this time they were building roads in the winter of ‘47 for the pulpwood industry. Arriving in High Prairie he heard there was work in the Kinuso area.

In 1948 he ordered a new brush cutter which had to be shipped from Edmonton by train. Besides working on roads he cleared land for homesteaders such as Harry Adams, Fred Skrynyk and Joe Wasylyk.

George homesteaded land north of Kinuso and built his house on one of the quarters near the lake. He purchased a new 1950 International W9 tractor to put his crops in. Besides grain farming he raised hogs which he sold in Edmonton. During the winter months he continued to work for construction com-



George Armitage.

panies as a Cat Operator.

George is now retired from farming but still occasionally works as a Cat Operator.

George has five children from his first marriage — Vera, Frances, Margaret, Georgie and Jeanie and six children from his second marriage:

Dusty married Connie Flinkman and has two children, Nicole and Dustin Jr. Dusty works for the Regional Council as a Student Counsellor for the Northern Area.

Dixon and Yvonne live in Peace River and have two children, Cleo and Peter. Dixon and Yvonne presently work as Upgrading Teachers at the Peace River Correctional Institute.

Roberta married Delbert Sloan and has two children, Shayne and Jennifer. Roberta lives in Morinville with their two children where she works as a computer operator.

Cheryl married Jim Sheldon and they have three children, Brent, Leighanne and Collin. Cheryl taught for three years as a play school teacher and is now running the farm with her husband.

Kevin has one child, Crystal.

Shannon is single.

Fred S. Arnold

By Vera McLaughlin (Whitecotton)

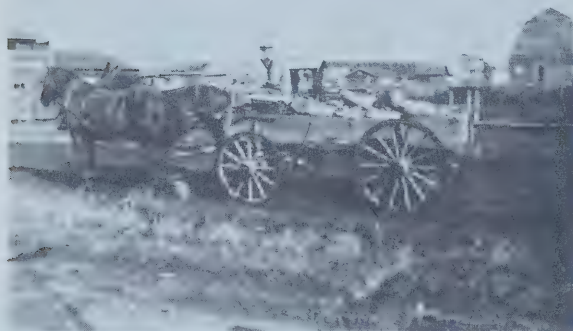
Fred Arnold was born in a covered wagon, while his folks were travelling through the State of Kansas, U.S.A.

In the early 1900’s he and my step-father, Matt Whitecotton, became great friends, joining forces

finding work. They travelled from place to place in the States and finally ended up in B.C., Canada. There they worked at carpenter work, both being carpenters by trade.

Later they became separated, and did not see one another until 1913, when Matt came to Smith, Alberta, and sent for Fred, believing there would be plenty of work. When Fred came he brought with him four big black horses. He didn't find any carpenter work but did get jobs with his horses.

In the meantime Matt and Nellie came to Swan River and opened up a restaurant.



Fred Arnold hauling a load of Marrow he grew.

In the spring of 1915, as soon as it was possible to come by freight, Fred shipped his horses up to Swan River, coming quite unexpectedly. There was such a hand shaking and back slapping between Fred and my Father that day. He lived around our place until the townsite was formed, then bought an acre lot which he later sold to Howard Posey. He then acquired land down at the lake, SW-19-T74-R9-W5. After the second World War he sold the land to Bob Churchill and moved up town again in a little house originally built for "Grandpa Stevenson".

He was greatly known for his horses, and the lovely gardens he grew. He was never married. He'll always be remembered for his by-word "By-Gesh". He died November 27th, 1948, and is buried in the Valley cemetery.

Bajer Family Kinuso Alberta

The John Bajer family came to the Kinuso district in April 1931, actually they migrated to Poland from Pennsylvania, U.S.A., where John was a coal miner, in 1921, because he had inherited some property in Poland after the first world war. He tried to establish in what was then Austria, but things didn't go well for him in his store and bakery business, due to the galloping inflation at that time and the monopoly in business of the Jewish population. The family moved to Canada in 1927 to settle in Beverly near Edmonton. John worked the Marcus coal mine at Cloverdale, which is east Edmonton now. When coal mining failed, he moved to Kinuso in 1931 and ventured into farming.

John Bajer was born 1892 and died 1961 age 69

years. Mary Bajer was born 1895 and lived to 1977, 82 years. The family trace-back indicates that they were of Danish origin, but were born in what is now East Europe near Cracow.

John homesteaded the S.E. 2-73-9-W5.

Mary homesteaded the N.W. 19-73-10-W5.

Their children were Chester, Edward, Martin, Nellie, Gladys, Jenny, Sophie, Rose, Vangie and Ted. Edward was killed by a poplar tree, something Dad was cutting down around the house they were constructing in May 1931. He lived for two weeks after the accident, but died May 25th or thereabouts in the McLennon hospital, and he was buried there.

Once a coal miner, always a coal-miner, John Bajer and Klemens Hedrich came in contact with one Assineau Schaffer at Assinau, who being a trapper, had located a seam of coal about 2½ miles straight south of Assineau in the year 1936. The seam was about 6 feet deep and protruded on a creek, about 10 feet above the creek bottom. The coal was of poor quality, similar to that coming from Egg Lake now. They tried to go into the bank thinking that it would get better as they went further in, however it got worse. I, Chester hauled coal to McKillop, Walkers, Rices and Wiltons, to Canyon Creek, Key's and to some mink farmers at Widewater, also to Driftpile, the Indian agent and some to Faust. Edward Hedrich hauled coal with me in 1937. The rental and overseer fees were too high and the quality of the coal too poor so the project was abandoned that same year.

I, Chester Bajer homesteaded the N.W. 3-73-10-W5 (Walter Kuhne owned it last I knew) in 1939 while working for John Ihde.

I joined the army in October, 1940 with the R.C.O.C., then volunteered for the Special Service Force in 1941 and trained with the paratroops in Helena, Montana, but fractured an ankle and was categorized and returned to R.C.O.C. and served in that capacity until discharged in February 1946. Whilst convalescing in Edmonton in the fall of 1941, Mae McCormick came up from Arizona and we were married in High Prairie Anglican Church by Rev. Crawley. I was drafted back east to go to school in Kingston, Ottawa and Montreal, then loaned to Pacific command where I worked as a Tech. Storeman. I handled radar and big gun orders and repairs. Mae came up from Arizona to Vancouver. One year and one day later I went back to Barrefield and was drafted overseas in fall of 1944 to see action in France, Belgium, and Holland ending up on VE day in Oldenburg, Germany as technician storeman. I must say that I did most of my army service going to school. No wonder I got a letter right after discharge asking me to re-enlist. Wish I had, but at that time I had enough army and was going to make a killing at farming!

I homesteaded under the returned service-mens' homestead act, entitling me to a half-section of land, the S.W. 18 and the S.E. 30-73-10-W5M. I bought three other quarters and cleared and farmed all five quarters from corner to corner till the fall of 1973. Under very wet, inundated conditions I was forced to sell to the Alberta government at \$57.00 an acre. It

had cost me more than that just to clear it. However you can't farm land under water, unless you can grow rice. Giving in to pressure from my wife, Mae, I bought some land near Barrhead, Alberta to sort of retire, but due to some extreme conditions in farming our marriage broke up and we were divorced in 1976.

In my family there are six children. Lee is with the Royal Bank in Vancouver, Terry is district manager for Wells Construction in Lethbridge, Alberta. Sandra Trollope is living in Medicine Hat with her husband and two children, Debra Steadman lives at Thunder Lake and is working as receptionist for a doctor in Barrhead, Ronald is working as a plumber in Barrhead and living at home. Mary was injured in a car accident in Medicine Hat. She is a quadriplegic, and though she has made some recovery she is still hospitalized in Medicine Hat Auxiliary Hospital.

"Shorty" Barbeau

Horace Anthony Barbeau, was born in Qu'Appelle, Sask., March 26, 1904. The family moved to High Prairie. "Shorty", as he is known to all his friends and family, had many and varied jobs in his life time. He worked for awhile near Assinneau and Canyon Creek for Frood Trucking. From there to High Prairie again, where he had a trap line south of High Prairie in the banana belt. He married Ruby Violet Kellie on Feb. 26, 1944. Then coming to Kinuso, they rented Rice's farm for a few years. They had two boys born in High Prairie hospital, Jimmy and Roy. Shorty and family then moved to Kinuso where he built his home on site on main street. He then worked for Imperial Lumber approximately 18 years altogether. He worked mostly as "edgerman", or at jobs that needed to be done. He was also night watchman after the family had spent a couple years in B.C.



Horace Barbeau and sons Ray and Jim.

Jimmy and Roy went to school in Lumby and Livingston B.C., and the rest of the school years were spent in Kinuso with Mrs. Lysney as one of their teachers.

Upon retiring, Shorty lived in Edmonton for a few years, where he would be closer to the doctors. Three years ago, he went to live in the Senior Citizens' Home in High Prairie. This last year he has spent in the Nursing Home in High Prairie.

One note of interest; while he was working for logging and Sawing contractors, from March 1 - 14, 1954, his work sheet read as follows: wages — \$86.20 — U.I.C. — \$.81 — board — \$2.00 per day. What a difference from today's prices. You can't even buy a piece of meat for \$2.00.

Jimmy, wild and rambunctious, tried out in many and varied jobs; some saw mill work, farming, fishing, trucking, and on the rigs, where he is still employed. Driving a car seemed to be one of his main attractions. This left him in the hospital as a result of a car accident, for six months. After coming back to Kinuso, he was married for a time to a gal from the neighboring town. He now lives in Kinuso and works on the rigs.

Roy, left Kinuso and tried out different job channels. One job was for Tony's Trucking in Peace River. He also tried the mines, and finally in Hay River, he worked on the dredge boats. He still lives in Hay River. He married a girl there, on May 27, 1978, and they have a baby son.

The George Beaupre Family

by George and Margaret

George and Margaret Beaupre, both born in the Morinville district, moved to Kinuso in the spring of 1947. Richard, their son, was born in Morinville and their daughter Corinne, in Kinuso.

This is their first home in Kinuso.



George was into mixed farming for a number of years. Here are George Richard and Corinne pictured with the hogs.



We had some lovely crops of grain. Here is Margaret standing in their bumper crop of Ajax oats in 1959.



After quitting with grain farming George went into cattle and had 150 head. Here he is with the herd. The cattle were sold in 1971.



George worked for Vin Rice Hardware for four years and also operated his own school bus for eleven years for the High Prairie School Division. George is here with his school bus.



We were flooded out several times and pictured here is the last flood that took place.



George sold his farm in 1978, and moved to Edmonton to retire. Richard who has his own home in St. Albert is an Executive Director for the Financial Assistance Division of Alberta Housing and Public Works. Corinne resides in Slave Lake and is employed as a secretary for Alberta Advanced Education and Manpower.



The Rosaire Beaupre Family

by Agnes Beaupre

We, Rosaire and I, Agnes Beaupre, George and Margaret and family, all moved to Kinuso from Morinville, Alberta, in March 1947.



The Beaupre family.
Back, left to right: Ronald, Gary, Rosaire.
Front, left to right: Doreen, Ken, Agnus, Marcel and Dougie.

At that time, Phillip and Laura Beaupre were homesteading here, a few miles west of town. They eventually opened up a filling station and coffee shop called the "Strawberry Lodge". They sold out some years later and moved to Alberta Beach.

Roger and Louise Beaupre also moved up here from Morinville and farmed some years, then moved back to Edmonton.

It was quite exciting coming up to this "North Country", which seemed quite a distance at that time, as compared to today's travel.

We had our machinery, furniture, and livestock, which consisted of 2 horses, 2 cows, 2 pigs, and 25 chickens more or less, and of course 1 dog, all shipped up here on the freight train in box cars. I will have to admit it was quite a change, but a good change. We were very fortunate here in having good neighbors, the Killeens, the Labbys, and the Lyskos. They more than welcomed us, to the north of town, where we had purchased our land.

We were very fortunate our first few years; we had lovely crops of grain, good gardens, and plenty of wild fruit. We really lived off the land. We came to town with horses and buggy, our only means of transportation, but we enjoyed every minute of it. Everything was so different compared to living around Morinville, which of course was already more modern.

We lived in a log shack, the cracks were mudded up, and sometimes a chunk would fall out in the middle of the night and scare the h... out of us. We got some baby chicks the first spring, and kept them in the kitchen by the stove in a little pen of their own.

When they started laying their eggs in the frying pan, of course we had to throw them out! Ha. Ha. Really smelly!

However the boys now had to start school, having only Ronald and Gary, so Rosaire started driving for the School Division. He used horses and a caboose for the winter, and the wagon when the roads were muddy. Later he purchased a van from Bill Card, who was our car agent at that time.

So, time went on and we decided to move to Town as Rosaire was now employed by the Dept. of Highways, under Doug McLaughlin, who was foreman then. We bought Bob Lyness's house, where I still reside today. We liked it in Town, as it was more convenient for all of us.

By now, we had 2 more sons, Ken and Marcel, who were both born in High Prairie, Alta. Ron now decided to marry Doreen Dow, and live his own life. They now have 3 children, Doug, Kim and Nicole.

Gary went out to work also, but had a car accident in 1967 in Edmonton; he was only 21 yrs. old, but there was not much we could say or do. However, there was more tragedy in store for us. Rosaire passed away in 1969 at home and Marcel and Ken and I carried on; the boys were all a Mother could ask for. They helped me along, especially Ken. Marcel was young, only 8 yrs. old. I was working at the Kinuso Mercantile, so kept busy.



Rosaire Beaupre, Gary and Ronald, and the dog they brought from Morinville. This is the dog that ran in the wheel.

Ken finally also went out to work and married Bev. They also have 2 children, Ryan and Des. They reside in Edmonton.

Marcel was finishing his education here, grade 11, and planned on taking his grade 12 in Slave Lake or High Prairie, but this did not materialize; he had a tragic accident in 1978 in the Swan Hills, and is buried in the Swan Valley cemetery also.

However, time goes on, no matter what comes or goes. We all liked and enjoyed this country, and our little Town of Kinuso. There's a lot to offer here, with our Lake and Swan River, which can get a bit naughty at times, but we all have survived the floods, so far. I will say they do get you down and set you back and it's hard for some people depending on the damage.

We are still very grateful in spite of some of the hardships, but where could you go, not to have them?

William (Billy) Berezowsky

I was born on September 24th, 1938, on the homestead. In my early years, I helped my Father on the homestead doing odd chores. In the first two years, I walked to school along the railroad tracks, a distance of four miles one way. This was only done in the summer time. In the winter months, a taxi, owned by Cyril Bannister, was operated to take the kids to school at a cost of \$5.00 a month per student. I attended the Kinuso School, completing grade VIII. I was involved in some sports, such as soft ball. I finished school at age 16 years. From there I went to work on the highways for three summers. In the winter, I operated a Cat, building roads, etc. In the year 1959, I went to work at Imperial Lumber in Kinuso. I worked in the mill doing various jobs, until the year 1974, when Imperial Lumber closed its doors. In the year of 1974, I returned to farming the homestead on a full time basis. I converted it from a mixed farm to a ranch, dealing mostly in Hereford cattle.

The Fred Berezowsky Story

Fred came from Poland in 1929, to Vegreville, Alberta. He worked there in a hotel for about a year. From there he went to Lavoy, where he was employed as a labourer on the railway.

During this time he met Eva Zaurutska, who had just come from the Ukraine a few months before. He married her and they went to live in Chipman for about a year, where they were both employed on a farm. She worked in the house and also fed pigs and calves et cetera. Fred worked the fields.

In the fall when the threshing was done, they came to this part of the country. He worked on the extra gang of the railway between Slave Lake and Kinuso.

Fred Yakamyshyn also worked on the same crew and they became acquainted. He told Mr. Berezowsky about a homestead that was available next to his own place at Kinuso. So Fred obtained this homestead and became a farmer. Their son, Bill, was born and raised at Kinuso. He attended school here.

When his Father passed away suddenly April 7, 1965 from a heart attack, Bill carried on at the farm. His Mother was not too well for awhile, but seems to be better now. She does not go out much, is sometimes lonely, but always wears a smile.

Arthur (Art) and Doris Boisvert and Family

submitted by Art Boisvert.

Arthur Boisvert was born in Kinuso, June 24th, 1933, to Ben and Vera Boisvert. He is the youngest of 4 boys — Leo, Jean and Raymond, who are twins. He has a sister Josephine, who is the youngest of the family. They were all born and raised in Kinuso, Alberta.

He took all his schooling at Kinuso. First, he attended the old two room school, and finished at the new 10 room one, which later burned down. Some of the teachers he remembers are: Miss McLennan, Mrs. Hadley, Jack Love, Mr. Lysne, and Fred Dumont.

He then got the urge to venture a bit and see other places, so he went to Prince Rupert, and worked as a carpenter's helper, and later took a job as a store clerk there. Tiring of that, he went to work as a bell-boy in the McDonald Hotel in Edmonton.

It was here he met his wife, Doris Scifridt. They were married in 1954, and four children were born to them, Lorraine, Barry, Cindy, and Joey.

Doris was born in Ellscoot, Alberta, east of Athabasca. She comes from a family of 4 children. She grew up there, but took her schooling in Athabasca and finished at Edmonton. Doris took Secretarial and Office work and worked for the Dept. of Agriculture as a Secretary, in the Pedigree Animal Department.



Doris and Art Boisvert family, Joe, Cindy, Barry and Lorraine.

In 1955, Art and Doris moved back to Kinuso, and Art joined his Father in his business as a general merchant.

By 1962, they had outgrown the old store of B. E. Boisvert and Sons, so they built the present Kinuso Mercantile. This store has its roots back in the days of Ben Boisvert's pool hall, barber shop, and confectionary. It's now one of the oldest continued family businesses in the Lesser Slave Lake Area.

Art has always loved music. When he was younger, and had time from the pressures of business, he played the piano and accordian for some years in the local orchestra. He has passed this love of music onto his children.

About 1959-60, Art encouraged Francis Dow, Jimmy Dow, Craig McLaughlin, Maurice Beaupre, and Peter Czelenski, to start an orchestra. Twenty years later Craig McLaughlin, Peter Czelenski, and Craig's sister Nellie, are still playing music.

Both Art and Doris (like Ben, Art's Father), are great lovers of the outdoors. When in Kinuso, they spend most of their leisure time down at the beach at the lake, where they have a beautiful cabin, relaxing and doing a bit of fishing, and where they can enjoy their family.

Art has had many experiences in his life, but one of the experiences that stand out the most is during one of our frequent floods.

This is a quote from the Edmonton Journal, written by Richard Finnigan. "Just a mile down the road the grunting homing pigs move aside for the inexorable grind and clank of a bulldozer, which has just extricated Art Boisvert's tractor from a 15 foot slough hole at the side of the road." "No telling how much damage is done to her," says its driver as it is steered out of the hole, water gushing from the frame and engine. "We found her upsidedown. Lord knows how Art got out." Now, a day later, Art Boisvert can say that he escaped from under the water that carried him to the fence about 15 feet away from where his tractor went under." After a day or so, Art was as good as new, but still a bit shaken.



Rescuing Art Boisvert from slough when his tractor upset in flood of 1975.

There was another incident which Art remembers. Art went with Gib Rogne and another fellow. They went on a moose hunting trip up the Red Earth Area. Gib was driving and Art and companion were standing on the running boards of the truck gazing around looking for game. All of a sudden the truck hit a bump and they overbalanced and fell off. They were both knocked out and Art broke his leg in the fall. Gib picked him up, made him comfortable in the back of the truck. Gib tells, "Art sang all the trip home to Kinuso, even with that broken leg." Inci-

dently, he spent the next 6 months in a cast.

Art and Doris have always enjoyed travelling from tenting in their own area to exploring other countries such as Europe, Columbia, Bahamas, Mexico, U.S.A., and Hawaii.

In 1979, Art and Doris are still in the "store" business in Kinuso, where they have a very extensive business. Art keeps exceedingly busy and Doris finds time to help in the business as well as keep a beautiful home.

Their children in 1979:

Lorraine — married Len Lillo and they have 1 son, Brent.

Barry — graduated and works in Edmonton for an Investors group. (Investors Syndicate)

Cindy — graduated from U. of A. Edmonton, going into the teaching of languages, especially French.

Joey — graduated from grade XII.

Benjamin Emile Boisvert (1898-1965)

Better known as "Ben" or "Benny", to those who knew him. He was among the first pioneers of the town site of Swan River (Kinuso). His presence in the community had a great effect on the growth and development of the community.

Ben was born near St. Paul, Minnesota, in the year 1898. At the early age of six years, along with his family, he immigrated to Canada. Ben's family, along with a number of French families homesteaded in the Legal area. The Boisvert family was a large family, consisting of three sisters and nine brothers, bearing twelve children in the family. In those days all the family had to take part in earning a living on the farm, and education was rather secondary.

At an age when kids nowadays are in High School, Ben set out to make his fortune; in any case left home with his older brothers. One of his earlier experiences was accompanying his older brother, John, hauling freight during the winter months from Athabasca to Peace River. They usually had two teams of horses pulling two sleighs tethered to one beam behind the other. It's said the Peace River hill was the toughest one to descend. They were forced to rough lock the sleigh runners with logging chains. On the return trip home, they usually loaded up with fish from the Lesser Slave Lake. Fishermen stockpiled large fish on the ice and the freighters would load fish like cordwood, paying 25 cents a fish.

During the spring Ben took a barbering course. He then worked for a period of time for August L'Hirondelle in the old town of Slave Lake (known as Sawridge). August, at the time, owned a poolroom, barber shop et cetera.

Ben's older brother Gene, who returned from overseas, decided to move to Kinuso. Ben went along with him and they decided to go into partnership, constructing a poolroom, barber shop, and confectionery. The business seemed to thrive. Older brother Gene got restless and decided he would move north and try the trading post at "Little Red River" near Fort Vermilion on the Peace River. Ben, meanwhile, stayed in Kinuso running the business; eventually he



Vera and Ben Boisvert — 1952.

bought out Gene's share.

During the years of 1921 and 1922, Ben was a much sought after bachelor. He owned a Model T Ford and the young people would gather at Spruce Point for picnics. It was said there was about six miles of road up the Swan Valley and twenty to thirty gates to open and close. North of town was mostly bush and a few homesteaders made their homes there. During this time Ben met Vera Bradford, who had emigrated from England after the first world war. Along with her parents, James and Ada Bradford, and two sisters, Gladys and Winnifred, they arrived in Kinuso, and lived for a time at the Bale farm. Doris Bradford, the oldest sister, had come over earlier as a war bride. Ben and Vera were married in 1922 at the Bale farm.

Ben and Vera had seven children: Leo, the oldest, Raymond and Gene (twins), Arthur, Josephine, and two other children that died at the ages of six months and two years.

Ben and Vera worked together and very hard, to raise their family and to acquire a few amenities of life we all desire. Ben was an opportunist, taking advantage of every opportunity to make a living, particularly during the "Dirty Thirties".

In 1930, Ben purchased a Model A Ford from H. W. Walker (Ford agent). With a Taxi license he, along with running his other businesses, drove Taxi. His main clients were the R.C.M.P. and the District Health Nurse. These escapades alone, would fill a book. The roads were no more than trails and during the winter months were near to impossible to drive on, but somehow Ben was able to drive the district, from Smith to Jousard.

Ben and Vera developed an Ice Cream trade, second to none. During the early years ice cream was shipped in from Edmonton. This proved to be unreliable. The idea came about to make their own ice cream, so Vera, with proper ingredients and real cream, made the mix. The boys, Leo in particular, had to crank the churn by hand. In later years, a gas engine was used. This chore, during the summer months, was ever present.

Ben, being a good provider and hunter always had deer, moose, ducks or geese, and fish et cetera in the freezer. There again, his hunting expeditions and sto-

ries would fill a book. For those of us who had heard the stories several times, we were always amazed at how they were repeated, the more exciting they became. Hunting was always Ben's outlet. Vera, at times, would go along, but she was burdened with children or work.

After the second war, Vera and Ben sold the poolroom and house to Russ and Helen Gillett. Along with Leo, Vera and Ben purchased the old Pierce Building from Gene Boisvert, who had opened a General Store in Slave Lake. Then in 1955, Leo moved to Slave Lake and younger brother Art came into the business with Ben and Vera.

Vera passed away in 1957, at the age of 54 years, due to a bad heart condition. Ben carried on, but as his health failed him, gradually he withdrew from the business. In 1965, he passed away.

July 1st, being the local Sports Celebration in Kinuso, was the major event of the year, particularly in the 1930's. Transportation being what it was in those days, people used the local freight or passenger train to move from town to town. Roads were not dependable and there weren't that many cars. People moved upon Kinuso with all their belongings and would spend the better part of a week in town. Of course the major events were the rodeo, baseball tournaments, horseracing, and a host of other minor events such as kids races, boxing in the evening, Pugesi games also went on. Each night a dance would occur. This whole sports event was a major endurance test for all who participated.

Of course, Benny Boisvert's Poolroom and barbershop took the brunt of these celebrations. Benny would have men lined up for hours waiting for their semi-annual hair cut. Ice cream was the order of the day, and the old pool tables would rattle on into the night. But during the afternoon, when the sports were on, Benny would shut up shop, because among other things he had to manage the Kinuso hard ball team. Town rivalry during ball games was fantastic. Places like Slave Lake, Widewater, Swan Valley, Faust, Jousard, and High Prairie all had ball teams. The betting was pretty heavy, and sometimes enthusiastic fans would get out of control with their name calling. Ball games would be the topic of conversation for days after the Sports. When the last teepee was torn down, the last drunk found his way home and the last wagon load of out-of-towners left, all the bills nearly always got paid, and always some arguments ensued, the rodeo stock was taken back to the various farmers who had loaned them and the Kinuso Sports was over for another year. Kinuso then, would settle down to the summer doldrums.

Ben and Vera would load up the kids in the Model A and head for the lake. A permanent tent would be set up near the Bale homestead on the lake shore, and Vera and the children, along with her sisters and brothers, in town from the city, would spend most of July and August at the lake. Benny would commute from town. As most everybody else did in those days, raspberries, blueberries, et cetera were canned by the hundred quarts. Ben and Vera were no exception to this.

“Leo and Stella Boisvert” “and” “Family”

Leo Benjamin Boisvert, born December 4, 1923 to Mr. and Mrs. Benny Boisvert. First of 7 children.

Leo spent his youth in Kinuso, going to school in the two room school house. Leo has many fond memories of Kinuso. In the early days, camping during the summer at Poplar Point near the Kusch farm, was an annual event until the 1935 flood.

The first of July sports was a big highlight for young and old alike. Of course Benny's Pool Room was a busy place, the men getting their annual hair cut. At this time the whole Boisvert family would be busy churning gallons of home made ice cream for sale.

The “dirty thirties,” did not hit the Kinuso area quite as bad because we seemed to be in the wet belt. There was no money, but people seemed to get enough to eat. Come Christmas time, Sports, or other occasions, people would gather and have a great time. This era was important. People did not have material things, but getting together meant very much to them.

During the summer months, Leo spent time on the Kusch farm, helping with haying, and getting in the harvest.

When Leo was 16, he journeyed via train to Waterways, for a visit with Uncle Gene Boisvert, who had a store there. While visiting there the opportunity came for a job on the river boat, the Radium Queen as a deck hand. This trip was down the river to Fort Smith. Quite an adventure for a young boy.

The second World War found Leo joining the Royal Canadian Air Force, in 1941. After training in Canada, Leo spent two and one half years in England, in the Canadian Group as an aero engine Mechanic. Returned home to Kinuso, December 1945.

After leaving the Air Force, Leo worked for a time with Swanson Lumber Co. as a time keeper, south of Slave Lake. In April of 1946, Leo and his Father Benny formed a partnership in the store business in the old Pierce store.



Leo and Stella Boisvert.

On October 22, 1947, Leo married Stella Alexander, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Alexander of

Widewater, old timers of the district. Stella's father was a commercial fisherman for years before branching out into a new industry — mink farming.

In April 1955, Leo, Stella, and small daughter Terry, and baby Linda, moved to Slave Lake to take over Uncle Gene's Store Business. At that time Slave Lake was considerably smaller than Kinuso, but business flourished.

In 1958, Leo was elected first Mayor of the village of Slave Lake, and was Mayor for 13 years, seeing Slave Lake become a Town. During this time Slave Lake went through a great growth period, as oil was discovered at Mitsue and Nipisi. Gas in the Martin Hills was also discovered.



Leo and Stella's family.

Left to right: Terry Jones, Linda Halfhide, Laura Boisvert, Dennis and Jim Boisvert.

With the town growing, Leo built a new grocery store, converting the old store into a clothing store, which is a bustling place in the community.

Leo and Stella have 5 children:

Terry — married to Stephen Jones.

Lyndia — married to Roger Halfhide.

Laura, Dennis, and James.

Leo and Stella still have very close contact with friends in Kinuso and visit the area frequently.

Ray Boisvert

I was born to Ben and Vera Boisvert in 1928, but what a surprise when a minute later, I brought along my twin brother Gene, who now lives in Slave Lake.

I attended Kinuso school from grade 1 to 9 and enjoyed a very happy, carefree childhood; swimming the lake and river, and also hunting and fishing. My winter trapline ran from the Wagon Bridge to Roffey's, then across to Strawberry Creek and ending on the west side of Kinuso. It produced rabbits, weasels and squirrels.

My musical career started when my folks bought a piano accordion, and I teamed up with Harry Yarosh on violin. We played for dances at Faust, Kinuso, Canyon Creek, Widewater and Slave Lake.

Edmonton entered my life when I went off to school for my senior grades at Eastwood High, and MacDougall Commercial.

The Boogie Woogie beat was the in-thing in the forties, so I brought it home to our little band on the

weekends and one and all enjoyed themselves. Graduation was 1945. A time keeper was needed by the Swanson Lumber Co. of Slave Lake so I applied and began a new experience. The First Aid Attendant's job also fell to me part time when it was discovered I had a St. John Ambulance Certificate. It consisted of patching broken arms, cut off hands, etc., and getting them from camp to Slave Lake and onto the train headed for High Prairie hospital. One day they brought me a badly mangled tree cutter and asked my opinion. Shaking badly, I checked his pulse and informed everybody he was alive. In actual fact he had been dead for at least six hours. Shortly thereafter the government decreed proper medical personnel for these camps, thank heavens for the workers. The camp also held transplanted Japanese from the west coast and German prisoners of war from Rommel's African Corps. So much for my medical career, back to Edmonton, I joined the Waterloo Accounting Department, but transferred to car sales and stayed with them for 16 years as Assistant New Car Sales Manager. Here I met my Waterloo, in the name of Jean Shurmer of Provost, and we were married in 1952. We have four grown children, two boys Dan and Randy, and two girls Deb and Donna, and a little grandson Jason.

In 1962 I left Waterloo, to form my own company, Goodwill Motors Ltd. and I'm still running it with the help of number two son Randy.

Tom & Cora Booth

Booths came to Swan River in 1912 or 1913. Cora Kerle, who came shortly after, married Tom Booth. Cora played organ for entertainment. Tom and Cora had one daughter. They left Kinuso in 1923 or 1924. Tom passed away in Kerkland, Washington in 1958. Cora passed away in 1978 in Washington also.

The Bornowski Story

Wilfred Bornowski grew up in Wilkie, Saskatchewan; Lynn in Shaunavon, Saskatchewan. Their parents were both farmers. Wilf and Lynn met in Cranbrook, British Columbia where she was employed as a nurse and he was in the logging industry. They were married in Cranbrook and lived there for three years.

In 1957, they moved to Kinuso and purchased the Steve Winter farm in the Valley. Lynn worked at the Indian Mission in Joussard in 1961, and worked there for six years. Wilf worked for two years as a farmer at the Mission. He then began working out and also farming on his own farm.

In 1968 they bought the Fred Prichuck farm after selling their own place. They have lived there ever since. Lynn continued her nursing career working at High Prairie and Slave Lake hospitals.

They have five children; Louise, Carol, Cameron, Jeanette and Rene. They all attended school here first and some went to the city for the higher grades.

The Albert Bossy Family

In October 1918, they came from Sceptre, Sask.

after suffering a huge loss by fire of home, barns and several head of livestock, Albert and Laura Bossy with little daughters, Audrey and Elinor.

As Mrs. Cornell living in Swan River Valley was Mrs. Bossy's sister, they thought of making Kinuso their new home.

Mr. Bossy had come, originally from the Gaspé Coast, his wife from Standbridge East, Quebec.

One hundred and thirty five cattle, a few horses, a pure bred Clydedale mare and tiny Shetland pony, Topsy, fastened to her bridle were some of the livestock that made the long trek.

Albert Bossy was pleased with the rich soil of the Valley and he rented Mr. John Adams half section, now known as "Mikes."

The little girls sometimes drove Topsy, their Shetland, down to visit their aunt, Mrs. Cornell.

However the complete change of feed etc. perhaps was responsible for the heavy loss of cattle and Mr. Bossy felt a move was indicated. In March 1920, he pulled up stakes, and with his family left the lush green Swan River Valley.

Mrs. Bossy was mainly remembered by the young Sloans for her first-aid, especially to their uncle Mr. Dave Gardiner.

After living in Athabasca for a few years, where Albert Bossy was manager of a lumber mill they moved to Vancouver, their final home.

Mr. and Mrs. Nat Bowen and Family

submitted by Thelma (daughter)



Mrs. Nat Bowen.

The following is a quote by Thelma, "Mum and Dad, Dick, Fred, Emmie, and I moved from Gleichen, Alberta, to Kinuso in 1932. We lived in the Pete Thomson place for awhile, then moved into town, where Mum started a rooming and boarding house; all you could eat for 35 cents. Imagine!! Lakeshore McDonald and Eunice Smith were Mum's best customers. Mr. Smith was always a gentleman, because he always took his hat off when he entered the Restaurant."

Thelma says of her Mother, "She truly was one of the greatest little ladies. I don't remember anyone every saying anything against her."

To quote Dick, "Mum treated everybody the same; no matter who they were or what."

Mrs. Bowen organized the W.I. in Kinuso, and for years was the president. When she left to make her home in Fitzberg, Massachusetts U.S.A., she was made an honorary president. When she passed away, the W.I. ladies of Kinuso had her name inscribed in gold in the 'Memory Book', in the Parliament buildings in Edmonton.

Nat Brown is probably remembered for his great gardens that he grew behind the green rooming house, and for the years he spent as Justice of the Peace for the Kinuso district.

He passed away in 1943. He was buried in Edmonton with military honors.

The Bowen Children:

Emmie — came to Kinuso with the family. She married Earl Rutledge and had a family, and lived up the Swan River for some years. Later she married Lon Cail in 1956, and moved to Whitehorse, Yukon.

Lon died 3 years later in the Veterans Hospital in Vancouver. Emmie died of cancer in 1978.

Fred — passed away suddenly in 1958 while curling in Widewater. He married Marie, and they had a family. They had a mink ranch. Marie lives in Edmonton, Alberta.

Dick — came to Kinuso soon after his Father. He married and had 2 sons. He served some time in W.W.II. He now lives in Osoyoos, B.C.

Thelma — grew up in Kinuso, and married Bob McLaughlin. They had 2 children, Garry and Beverly. She moved to B.C. and Whitehorse doing various jobs, running a store etc. She now lives in Penticton, where her daughter Bev and her husband Jim live. He is in the construction business.

The Brandson Family

In 1921 or 22, Mr. and Mrs. Brandson were in Kinuso with son Leo and 2 or 3 other children. Mr. Brandson built a small house across from the front of the Kinuso School.

They left later and went to Manitoba. Leo came back about 1928 with his wife Ivy and baby Walter, Hugh and Wallace were born in 1931 and 1933.

Leo was a carpenter. He was one of the first to join the Engineers in April, 1940, Second World War. He remained in England after the war.

He died in July, 1968.

Frances Swanson Bremmer

by Sylvia Sloan

Frances came to the Valley with her parents Mr. and Mrs. John Swanson in 1913, from North Dakota, U.S.A. She was born October 18th 1910 in Robinson North Dakota in Kidder County. She lived with her parents and her half brother Lee Ferris (Canada Kid) on their homestead in Swan Valley. Her parents later adopted a baby boy, they named Earl. Frances attended school in the Valley.



The Bremmer Family.
Lucille, Francis, Alma and Mrs. Swanson.

Frances met her husband John Bremmer at Spurfild, Alberta and they were married February 4, 1927. They lived at Spurfild for awhile where John worked for Field and Patterson Lumber Co. They later moved back to Swan Valley and farmed the Joe Anderson place for several years, two daughters were born to them, Lucille and Alma. They moved to Vernon B.C. about 1940, where their only son was born, they lived on a fruit and vegetable farm near Vernon. Frances' health was never too good and after several operations she has spent the last two years in hospitals



Roy Sloan, John Bremmer, Francis Bremmer, and Liz Swanson.

and at home and is now in a nursing home in Vernon.

John still lives on their little farm, where they have a lovely home, but has retired and now spends a big part of his time visiting Frances each day.

Grace and Cager Brown

Grace and four children, myself, Delta, Frank, Ben and Ruth left our home at Olds, Alberta, April 6, 1918, by train for Kinuso. Arriving early in the morning, we were met by different ones and led to Mrs. Whitecotton's Hotel, the only such place in Kinuso at that time. Here we stayed overnight. The next morning we were taken by an Uncle and some of his friends to the home of our grandparents, Tom and Clara Sloan. This being a happy occasion for us children.

A few days later, Dad and my oldest brother, Reubin arrived in Kinuso with a freight car of machinery and several horses plus other provisions as Dad's aim was to homestead and make a new home for his family.

He applied for the quarter section of land recently abandoned by Sam Sloan, who had returned to the United States to join the U.S. army. Dad was successful in getting the land and a few months later he built a house and a few outbuildings. We immediately moved into our new home, where we lived until the year 1924. On the homestead we soon had a garden plot broke up and were able to raise lots of good vegetables and potatoes which the valley was noted for. Another thing that was very helpful in providing food off the land was the bountiful supply of wild berries such as strawberries, saskatoons, raspberries, blueberries and gooseberries, which could be picked not far from the house.

We also acquired several milk cows so had lots of fresh dairy products to use. Later mother made many pounds of butter to be taken into town, Kinuso, 13 miles away.



Mrs. Cager Brown and family.

During this time Dad broke up enough land to seed enough green feed for the milk cows. We also grew bushels of turnips which were stored in a pit, under the grain stacks. These were dug out during winter and chopped up and fed to the cows along with the greenfeed.

In the year 1919, Mr. Stanley, an Adventist Minister, arrived in the valley with his family, and eventually with his encouragement an Adventist school was built, which I and my brothers and sisters, as well as other children of the community, attended for several years.

In 1921 a baby girl, Lillian was added to our family bringing the number to six in our happy family.

In 1924 our family moved several miles down the valley to the property of Joe Anderson so we children would be closer to school, a new school had been built on the property adjoining the Anderson place. There, all the children attended school for several years except Reubin, the oldest, who had gone out to work on his own. He later married Christina Denison in California in 1927.

In the year 1926 our family left the valley and moved to High Prairie. There, Dad had taken out another homestead north of High Prairie. Dad drove a school van which was horse drawn for several years for the High Prairie School Division.

Dad built another house on our homestead, but a few years later the East Prairie river flooded our land taking our first buildings and leaving the land with little value. Dad continued to drive his school van until 1933, when he passed away of a heart attack at his home. Frank, the only son at home, took over driving the school van. He, Mother and sister Lillian moved into a house west of High Prairie, where they lived until Frank's marriage to Phyliss Nattress. He then went out on his own and later became the town's policeman. Mother and Lillian moved into the town of High Prairie. In 1946 mother suffered a stroke and passed away at the home of her daughter, Ruth Gould. Lillian had also married George Gould during this time and was living in High Prairie.

Hilda Burkard

I was born at home, daughter of Nels Bale and Doris Bradford, his wife, in a small frame shack, on a homestead near the South shore of Lesser Slave Lake. The date was May 7, 1920. My mother was attended by Mrs. Campio, an Indian mid wife. My

first bed was a wooden fish box, thoroughly scrubbed, and comfortably padded and lined.

When I was three weeks old, my maternal Grandparents, Jim and Ada Bradford and three aunts, Gladys, Winnie, Vera, arrived from England. My father, who was wounded in the war, was in failing health, so with the arrival of my Grandparents, my mother was able to help more with the outside work that had to be done, while my Grandmother and aunts took care of me. When I was nine months old, my father passed away, and was buried in a soldier's grave in Mt. Pleasant cemetery in Edmonton.

Some of my first childhood memories are of my Grandfather playing with me, of being carried piggy back to a berry patch, walking in autumn leaves with my Grandmother while she talked of her days in England, riding on the back of a huge white horse named Beauty, stacks of wood being sawed, chopped and piled, large gardens, hours of home preserving, frosty pictures on small windows, long months of snow, mud for mud pies. Sometimes the house was filled with people and laughter and chatter, and the smell of delicious food being prepared by my mother and her sisters.

When I was four years old, my mother married Charlie Kusch. I was at the wedding, in the care of Mrs. Whitecotton, the wife of the Hotel proprietor. When the wedding was over, I was given a hand full of rice, and as mother and my step father came down the aisle, I was told to throw the rice at them, and everyone was doing just that. All this was too much for me. I could not understand why everyone was throwing rice at mother, so I started crying as loud as I could.

After my mother's marriage, my Grandparents moved to Kinuso. About a year later my mother had a baby boy. His name is Lawrence. My nose was very much out of joint for a while, but finally I accepted my little step brother. When I reached school age, I stayed in town with my Grandparents, going home most weekends and holidays.

My first days in school were very frightening to me. Living in the country up until then, I had not met many strangers, but all of a sudden almost everyone was strange and I was scared. My Grandfather saw that I was having trouble, so he helped me at night with my bit of home work, and soon everything smoothed out.

Tragically, one day my Grandfather was killed in a shooting accident. I stayed on with my Grandmother. She must have been a lonely lady, but she had a strong will, and kept herself busy.

A good many children at the time needed medical attention, particularly for tonsils, adenoids, as well as dental work. I was one who needed all of this. These were the depression years, and unless an ailment was serious, it was treated with Aspirins, hot water bottles, tooth drops and home remedies. One day we had word that a Government sponsored Clinic was coming through the Northern part of Alberta. All those in need of care were notified to have a single cot and bedding, a gown, and report to the school, which had been turned into a temporary hospital, one room

being the ward, and one being the operating and dental room. Even the thought of this was terrifying to me. I was the second to last child to go to the operating room. Each child would go to the O.R. in turn, and returned in about half an hour. Then the child would begin heaving up blood. My cousin, Leo Boisvert, seemed calm as could be through all this, but I was ready to run away, screaming. It must have been my mother's restraining hand that kept me there until my turn.

When I was 11 years old my mother had a baby girl, Doreen. I well remember the excitement of waiting to see what the baby would be, boy or girl.

By now I was in my early teens, and starting to do some weekend jobs. Mostly helping my Aunt and Uncle, Vera and Benny Boisvert. My aunt helped my uncle in his business a great deal. They also had four sons at that time, Leo, Twins Ray and Gene and Art. I would help in the house, when things got particularly busy. Some times I helped in the store. I should be a bit more accurate. The business was a pool room, barber shop, and a combined confectionary, tobacco and magazine store. In the summer my aunt made ice cream to sell in the store. This ice cream was in great demand, and on a hot day, it took many hands to keep turning the freezer, and keep a supply on hand. One day I was in the store, and Ronald Field, who had just came back from the city, came in and asked for an ice cream sundae. I laughed at him and said why not a Monday, Wednesday or Friday? He was appalled at my ignorance, but that truly was the first time I had ever heard of an ice cream sundae.

One summer I picked strawberries for Hank and Tillie Griffin, and when the berries were finished, they asked me to stay on for the summer, and help them with the chores. They were very good to me, and paid me enough so that I could buy my books and some clothes for school. I was proud of myself.

My first recollection of entertainment was the dances in the U.F.A. Hall. Young and old attended. No baby sitters in those days. When the baby or small child tired, it was bedded down on a large table in the hall kitchen. These dances never will lose their attraction to me. As I grew older, if my parents were unable to attend, and my Grandmother did not feel up to it, Mrs. Harry Walker would be kind enough to "keep an eye" on me. These were fun times.

In these early years I vaguely remember seeing the silent pictures that were put on by a man named Billy Boyd, (also the town shoe repair man). These were mainly cowboy shows, and the star was Tom Mix. This was also in the U.F.A. Hall.

Thanks to my Aunt Vera Boisvert, I was also a member of the Badminton Club when it was formed some years later. Mr. Wilton was in charge of this, as I recall. A great asset to the town's social life.

There was a Fall Fair each September. Early in spring the school children who wished to participate were given seeds to plant. We also prepared Art work, also handy crafts that could be made in the summer. There was also handwriting and compositions for entry.

We formed a C.G.I.T. group, headed by the district

nurse, Miss McArthur.

The girl's softball team took up quite a lot of our time in the spring and summer. We had great competition with Slave Lake and Faust.

July 1, Sports Day, was a highlight. There were foot races for all ages, ball games, horse races, a rodeo, hot dog and ice cream stands, and Indian tea dance at night and a dance in the U.F.A. Hall.

All through my school years my constant classmate was Marian Eckardt (Walker); we see each other at times still, and enjoy reminiscing. Arend Kool was in the class for many years. Many others came and went, but the 3 of us lasted through until I left in grade eleven.

The autumn following my leaving school, I said good-bye to my friends, and left for the bright lights of Edmonton to seek employment. I married Syl Burkard in later years, we had five children Joan, Anne, David, John, Shelly and Janice, and nine grandchildren whom all reside in B.C. Have been back for visits many times since. Always enjoy the old home town although very few marks that I remember are there now.

Mrs. Mary Burque (nee-Gordy)

I was born in Smoky Lake in 1916, and lived there until I was 11 years old, going to school there until the fifth grade.

The family then moved to Wandering River, south of Ft. McMurray. There was no school there so that put an end to my schooling. We lived on this homestead for many years, then I married Edwin Burque. We lived on a homestead about 5 miles southwest of my parents. The life here was hard, no transportation, and the nearest settlement was Plamondon.

Edwin and I had twelve children, eleven of whom are still living. In about 1934-35 we moved to Ft. Chipewyan, and lived there for 15 years. We trapped and fished for a living and I worked doing housework for other folks to help with our living expenses, which were very high. Planes only came in once a month with supplies, transportation was by dog team. In winter there was always lots of snow and short day light, temperatures of 65 degrees below zero. The only sounds in winter were the trees popping with frost and the Athabasca Lake grumbling and mumbling, occasionally sleigh dogs with bells on. There was no radio there in those days, only a portable gramophone for music. The community created their own recreation, with pie or basket socials, dances and house parties. These involved the whole family as baby sitters were unknown.

In 1947 we moved to Ft. McMurray. Later Edwin developed a serious heart condition, which he endured for about a dozen years, passing away in 1954. He passed away in September and our daughter Denise was born in December of that year, so he did not live long enough to hold our last child.

After Denise was born, I worked in a cafe for two and a half years. This was hard as there was no running water and a coal and wood stove with three ovens to it. It became awfully warm in that kitchen at times.

My parents were getting up in years and were not too well so the children and I moved to Lac La Biche to be near them. There I obtained work in the hotel for six months, then in the hospital for nearly three years.

Denise was a very delicate child, she developed a bad case of pneumonia so I had to quit my job at the hospital to take care of her. In those days antibiotics were unknown so it took several weeks of nursing to effect a cure. After she recovered I began working in the cafe again, and worked there for three years.

After this I moved to a farm to live for the next three years. From there we moved to Boyle, where I worked in the store and in the storekeeper's house as well as cleaning and sewing. I also worked in the hospital there for about a year and half, then back to the cafe to work for another 2 or 3 years.

Cafe wages in those early days were \$15.00 per week and the hospital paid \$175.00 per month.

I met Dick Lovely when we lived at Boyle. We were on the move for several years wherever his work took him. Finally we purchased a house in Kinuso and settled here. Dick has a wood work paying hobby in the winter and works on the highway as scale man in summer.

My son George and his family live in Kinuso and also Denise and her son, the other children are scattered around some, in Yellowknife, some in Frobisher Bay, Ft. McMurray, Ft. Smith, Lac La Biche, and two in Edmonton. I travel a great deal visiting them all from time to time.

I have forty eight grandchildren and fourteen great grandchildren.

I am also a member of the Senior Citizens' Club in Kinuso and do what I am able to do there.

We have may activities in our club and I take part in the Crib Tournaments held every winter.

Scotty Cameron and Family

submitted by Anne (Cameron) Michta

In February 1922, Constable Donald (Scotty) Cameron of the Alberta Provincial Police, along with his wife Phyllis, and two daughters, Anne and Margaret, moved to Kinuso. Const. Cameron replaced Const. Osgood.

In the early days the police didn't wait for trouble to come to them, they patrolled their districts to see all was well. Many days were spent patrolling on horse back or with a team, often times sleeping under a spruce tree at 40 degrees below zero and coming home suffering from fatigue and frostbite.

At times, Mrs. Cameron went out with Const. Cameron to help with a sick Indian, and like most women in those days she went to homes in town. Where she helped nurse sick families through the flu.

On one occasion Mrs. Cameron stopped a prisoner from escaping. She was still standing holding a gun on him when the Constable returned.

Around 1923, Mr. Cameron brought his mother-in-law, Mrs. Emma Turner and her son Jack to Kinuso. Jack later had Jack's Jewellery.

In 1927, he left the police force and took up farm-



1924 — Constable and Mrs. Scotty Cameron, daughters Ann and Margaret.

ing on what was then the McLean farm.

Mr. Cameron died January 1957, and Mrs. Cameron in July, 1977.

Anne is married to Joseph Michta and Margaret to George McKenzie. Both live in Calgary, Alta.

Wm. (Bill) Card

This is a copy of a "Letter" from Wm. (Bill) Card from Edmonton, Alberta

"Here are some details on my early days in Kinuso, Alta.



Bill Card.

I operated a logging operation near Wagner, in the years 1942-43, logging and shipping birch logs to Vancouver, B.C., where they were made into plywood. This plywood was used for fighter plane covering, and used during World War II.

This was a tough plywood, and a bullet could

penetrate it, and the hole would close up, and the covering would still not rip or tear.

In 1944-46, I operated a saw mill, and logging operation, at first on top of "Prichuk Hill", then in 1945, I moved south of where Casey McLaughlin's farm at Eula Creek is situated.



Bill Card's Shop in Kinuso.

Early in 1946, I, with my Father's help, built a garage, and power plant building in Kinuso "Town", and served power to the Hamlet of Kinuso, as it was at that time.

Building my own power lines and installations, this power was 110 volt., D.C. Power, and was operated as such until in 1953, when I bought new equipment, and changed to 110-220 A.C. Power. I operated this equipment until 1958, when I sold out to Northland Utilities. Trusting this bit of information will be of some assistance in preparing material for the "Book", I hear you are putting together."

"Good Luck in your endeavor,
I am WM Card"

Mary Card Family

submitted by Mary (Armitage) Card

Bill Card's story has been told in other pages of this book.

I (Mary), and my sister, Eva (Klyne), came to Kinuso, Alberta, in November, 1948. Our husbands, Don and George, came earlier in the summer to homestead.

George Armitage brought a D9 Cat and brush cutter with him to clear land. We had been farming in Saskatchewan, but it got so dry, we couldn't grow any crops. We had heard of Kinuso and decided to come and see if we liked it.

The men, Don and George built a lumber house for each of us on the Indian Reserve, close to the east side of town, which we later moved side by side on lots facing the railroad.

Because it was easier for the children to go to school in town, I never did live on a farm.

At the time we came we had four children, Mary Ann, Vera, Margaret, and Georgie. In 1951, Jeannie was born in High Prairie, where the hospital was located. All the children received their education in Kinuso.

In 1955, I married Bill Card and we had two children, Kevin and Tracy.

MARY ANN — married Harold Seppola, they have five children and live in Slave Lake.

VERA — (Gillespie) lives in Toronto, Ontario.

FRANCIS — (Puckette) and her family live in California.

MARGARET — (Shirley) and her family live in Whitecourt.

GEORGE Jr. — and his family live in Edmonton, Alberta.

JEANNIE — working and living in Edmonton.

KEVIN — is working in Whitecourt, Alberta.

TRACY — is going to school and she is living at home.

Chasse' Family

Louis and Helen Chasse' and family came to Kinuso on April 11 of 1970. They have six children — five born in Athabasca and one born in 1971 at Slave Lake.

Louis came from Athabasca and was working for Hayes Enterprises when he moved to Kinuso. After being in Kinuso for 10 months, he went to work for John Deren at his garage, then he went to work for the village as a helper to Mr. Dow. Later he became village foreman and maintained the water plant and the looking after of the village roads, sewers etcetera. He has been with the village of Kinuso ever since.

Helen was born in Medicine Hat and came to Athabasca where she met Louis and married in 1957. Since coming to Kinuso she has been involved with many different organizations. She was Brown Owl for four years and is now Librarian of the Kinuso Municipal Library.

There are six children in the family. Clovis is the oldest and has completed his schooling and is married and living in Edmonton. Richard is in grade 12 and is going to school in Athabasca and living in Grosmont. Wilfred is at home and is done with schooling. Kathrine is taking her grade 10 and Elizabeth is taking her grade 9 at Kinuso School. Victor is the youngest and is taking his grade 2 at Kinuso.

From the looks of things the Chasse' family will be members of Kinuso for a while longer.

The History of Bert (Buster) and Hester Churchill

by Hester (wife)

Bert (Buster) as he is better known to his family and friends at Kinuso, was born in Kitscoty, Alberta, in 1921, and came to Kinuso, Alberta, with his family in August 1930. Bert was from a large family of 8 brothers and 8 sisters, when they came to Kinuso but later another sister was added to the family.

When they moved up all the children didn't come as some of them were away working or married. Two sisters and two brothers are now deceased.

One sister, Gladys, came with the family, and her young man Dave came right along, so it wasn't long till they went farming at Marwayne, Alberta.

Bert grew up in Kinuso, getting all his education

here. He was a keen sportsman and was 'pitcher' for a number of years, for the 'hard-ball' team, also he played a lot of 'badminton', and was an avid curler.

He joined the army in 1941, and was one of the fortunate ones to return. After returning from overseas, he decided to take up farming; purchasing a quarter section of land north of town which was owned by Harry Walker and which his mother and dad were renting at the time. He and his brother Jim, who also had purchased land, pooled their resources and were able to buy more land and machinery. They farmed in the summer, and worked for Imperial Lumber Co. in the winter, sometimes at the mill and sometimes in the bush in the Swan Hills area.

In 1948, Bert married Hester Marshall (nee McMillan) who was from Waskada, Manitoba, but had lived in Victoria, B.C. during the War years, and came to Kinuso in November 1947 to work for Clifford and Orval Eckardt, who had purchased the Whitecotton Hotel, along with their sister Thelma, who then married October 28th, 1949 in High Prairie, Alberta, (Buster and Hester). They were married at Guy and Thelma's home, there. The weather didn't co-operate very good that day, and the Minister's wife decided to have a baby, so we were delayed for a bit.

We then had to drive back to Kinuso, all the way in the rain, and the roads weren't paved either. We had the Reception at Mum and Dad Churchill's house and the Dance in the Legion Hall. The Legion had promised the first member to be married got a free dance, but we missed out as Orval Eckardt and Irene Hunt were the first couple.

Bert worked on the School the first winter we were married, and we lived in Cliff and Marian's (Eckardt's) house.

In April, 1951, I went to work for Harvey Cline in the Post Office, and in July 1951, we purchased the building and land from Harvey and Annie, who were going to the farm and were building a new house there. I (Hester) operated the Post Office until 1955, when we sold to Cynthia and Leo Roe.

We then purchased 'The Harward House', across from the Legion Hall, and started our family. We have Trevor who is 24 years, and Neva who is 23 years old.

We lived in town for a few years, but decided we would like the country living, so purchased the Finnie Hill farm a mile south of Town. We all enjoyed living on the farm. We were beside the river which had its good points and its bad points, especially the year of the flood. We were lucky though, and never had water in the basement.

Trevor and Neva finished their education from Kinuso, to grade twelve, then Trevor went to work on the oil rigs. Neva went to Camrose Lutheran College to take grade twelve. Neva then came back to Slave Lake, where we had moved to, and worked in the Hospital and later in the Window Factory. After that, she went to Fort McMurray to work and has been there ever since, about 3 years.

Bert's logging had taken him north of Slave Lake, so I went along but lived in Slave Lake. We purchased a trailer and we stayed there 3 years. I worked part

time in Eaton's Order Office and also Sear's Order Office, for Mae and Laverne Larson. I also sold Tupperware and Avon, so was able to keep busy while Bert was away.

Trevor married Edna Cardinal, who had one boy, Leland. They are separated now and Trevor is still with the Oil Company.

Bert's work then took him back to the Swan Hills area to work for the Imperial. He had been in partnership with Alvin Lillo for 13 years. They then decided to go their own ways, but they are both in the logging business.

We moved to Swan Hills Town in November, 1976, and purchased a bigger trailer and lot, and have a nice view from the top of the hill. We have a chance to watch a small Town grow, and Swan Hills is certainly doing just that. What with the Oil and the Coal deposit there have been many changes. We now have the main part of town paved, and the Highway going through. Hopefully, in a couple of years, it will be finished and meet up with #2 Highway at Kinuso.

There is lots of activity here, and lots of sports for anyone interested.

We get back to Kinuso to renew acquaintances, and 'That will always be the old home place where we had so many good times.'

Mr. and Mrs. Clyde Churchill

by Hester

Mr. and Mrs. Clyde Churchill arrived in Kinuso, Aug. 4th, 1930. They left Kitscoty, Alberta, late in June with 11 of their 16 children, travelling by team and wagon, driving over 30 head of cattle and 18 horses.



Mum, Meg and Dad Churchill.

They travelled north from Kitscoty by Lea Park, St. Paul, and Bonnyville. Then north-west, through the Negro settlement by Athabasca, and over by the ferry there.

Coming down a hill at Beaver River, on Donald's fourteenth birthday, July 14, the team he was driving

ran away, capsizing the wagon containing most of the household furnishings. Everything was smashed beyond repair.

Crossing the Athabasca River, the family again had a bit of excitement when a mare and colt got separated. Halfway across, the mare realized her colt was still on the bank, so she jumped off into swirling water, and swam back to shore.

They milked their cows, morning and night, so an early stop was necessary to get the chores accomplished and to let the animals pasture.

The evening camp had to be close to water, of course. Sometimes when an ideal spot was located, they would spend several days there.

The stock would get rested, wagons repaired, and of course Mom Churchill, and girls, would catch up on chores, such as washing, baking, and a little berry picking.

Butter was no problem; the cream was put in a cream can, and the steady motion of the wagon did the rest.



Churchill family when they came to Kinuso.

The eldest boys, Jack, Elmer, Jim, and Donald, helped their Dad with the driving, and took turns riding the saddle horses to herd the stock; having a wonderful time and lots of fun doing it.

The family's destination was really Peace River, but they stopped to visit at Kinuso with an ex-prairie neighbor, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Schornack. Seeing all the lush pasture and lakeshore grass, they decided to stay right here in Kinuso.

Clyde (better known to all as "Slim"), was born in Wisconsin, and Georgina Smith, his wife, was a

Toronto girl, but her Father had moved to B.C., and was a boat builder at Peachland B.C.

They were married in B.C. in 1905, and their first two children Jack and Evelyn, were born there. The other children were born at Kitscoty, except Audrey, who was born in Kinuso, Alberta.

Four of the Churchill boys saw overseas duty, and two of the girls, Muriel and Mary, served in Canada in the home services, for about four years.

The Churchill Children

Evelyn — married William Herbert (Bert) Holgate at Kitscoty, and later they moved to Kinuso. They had five children, Marvin, Georgina, Gordon, Doran and Dorothy (twins), Dorothy was deceased at three yrs. old.

Jack — married Marie Labby of Kinuso, and they had two boys, Leo and Dick.

Blanche — married Cecil Yerex, and lived for some time at Kinuso, then later moved to B.C. They had six boys, James, Robert, Edward, Merle, Michael, and David. Blanche had a nursing home for the Senior Citizens for some time at Victoria, B.C.

Clyde — (Blondie) — married Jane Staddard (Jean to us). They had one boy Joseph, and three girls, Edna, Patricia, and Jessie. Blondie farmed at Paradise Valley, Beaverlodge, and Wainwright. He also had a trucking business. Jane passed away several years ago. Blondie married Elunde, and still lives at Wainwright, Alberta.

Gladys — married Dave Rooks at Marwayne, Alberta. They have a boy, Douglas, and a girl, Carolyn. They have farmed at Marwayne. They are now retired and live in town. Douglas and Susan live at Grande Center, and have one boy and one girl. Carolyn lives at Marwayne and has three boys.

Fern — married Johnnie Jessop, and lives at Vancouver, B.C. She had no family and is a widow now, but still resides in Vancouver.

Elmer — married Jane (Jean) Boden of Ayrshire, Scotland in 1945, while in the service. They have four boys, Glenn, Ian, Grant, and Craig. They live in Edmonton.

Edith — married Walter Stevenson at Kinuso, and have six boys, Douglas, Donald, Howard, Brian, and Gilbert. They have one girl, Joan. Edith and Walter now live at Kelowna, B.C.

Donald — married Annabelle Staddard, (sister of Blondie's wife). They have two boys, Donald, who lives in Ft. McMurray, and Percy, who lives at Paradise Valley. Donald Sr. farms at Paradise Valley.

James — Jim is our bachelor brother, and farmed at Kinuso since overseas duty. He also works in construction work.

Bert (Buster) — married Hester McMillan from Waskada, Manitoba, in 1949. They have one boy, Trevor, and one girl, Neva.

Muriel — was married to Allan Webb in Ontario and have one boy, Christopher, and one girl, Deborah. Chris married Hannechin Mynch of Germany, and lives in Seattle. They have one girl, Anja Christine. Deborah married Wayne Sarenson, and lives in Texas. Allan was killed in a plane crash, and

Muriel is now married to Dean Shuff, of Seattle, Wash.

Mary — married John Kearns of Toronto, and lived there until 1978, when they moved to Kelowna, B.C. to retire. They have two girls, Laurie and Jane, and one boy, David.

Robert (Bob) — married Irma Boden of Ayrshire, Scotland, (sister of Elmer's wife, Jean). They have one boy, Ross, and one girl, Susan.

Theodore — (Ted) — married Mona Brassard of Jossard, and they had three boys, Thomas, Allan, and Bruce. Ted had made his career in the Canadian Army. His story will be told in other pages of this book.

Jean — got her education in Kinuso, and then went to Seattle, where Muriel was, and married Don Moorehead. They live in Eugene, Oregon. They have one girl, Leslie Dawn.

Audrey — grew up in Kinuso, and then went to Muriel's at Seattle, and finished her schooling. She was married there to Joseph Taylor. They have two boys, Gregg and Daryle, and two girls, Pamela and Heidi.

Mr. and Mrs. Churchill celebrated their Golden Anniversary in 1955, and all the family were home except Audrey, who was in Germany where Joe was stationed in the U.S. Armed Services at that time.

Dad Churchill passed away March 1965, and Mother Churchill passed away December, 1967.

Jack's death was the first break in the family, and since then Evelyn, Blanche, Ted, and Ted's son Tom, have passed away.

Jack, Bert, and Bob, had farms north of Kinuso and Elmer and Jim had their farms west of town. None of the Churchills homesteaded, but their farms were homesteads originally of old timers (Harry Walker, Finnie Hill, Mr. Posey, Frank Clark, Mr. Poole, Mr. Whitman, and Harry Riggs).

Jean and Elmer Churchill

Elmer and I were married in the spring of 1945 in Inverness, Scotland, where we were both stationed during the war.

My arrival in Kinuso coincided with the recently formed Canadian Legion Branch #188's first smoker. The train was met by a large group of veterans, very happy, perhaps not too sober, pulling the McDonald — Lyness buggy.

By 1946, the population explosion had begun. Our contribution was Glenn and Ian, then Grant, and before we sold the old Walker homestead in 1971, Lyle and Craig were added to our family.

We had bought the Walker homestead in 1950 from Rand Stevenson, but the McLaughlin family had lived on it for many years. The barn, built in 1942, was the scene at Joyce Walker and Earl Antonson's wedding dance. The barn burned in 1970. That stretch of highway just isn't the same without that big white and red barn.

Marie (Labby) Churchill and Family

Marie was born on June 3, 1912, in Georgetown, Wisconsin, U.S.A. She had seven brothers and

sisters: Bill, Tillie, Fred, Agnes, Cordie, Annie (Marie) and Ted.

Marie was only a baby of three months when her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Labby and her sisters and brothers packed up and moved from Georgetown to Canada. They made their first home in Legal, Alberta. They lived in Legal for about two years. In 1915, they moved to a homestead in Kinuso which her Father had filed on previously. The homestead is north of Kinuso and Marie's brother Ted, is still living there today.

When they first moved here, Mr. Labby fished and trapped for his living. He also worked for the "Walker Mill", which was located on his own land.

As a young girl Marie, and two of her sisters Annie and Cordie, went to school in the summer months as it was too cold to travel in the winter months. The girls stayed in a house and lot which Mr. Labby owned.

At home Marie remembers that a lot of her time was spent picking berries. She picked berries to sell and for their own use. She also spent a great deal of time helping her Father bring the hay off the fields.

Marie met her husband, Jack Churchill, in the 1930's. They were married on Oct. 21, 1940. When they were first married, Jack worked for Bob Norton, logging birch in the area. In 1944, Jack went to work as a Forest Ranger for the Alberta Forest Service at the Swan Valley Forestry Station. They lived there for about five years and during that time their first son, Leo Joseph, was born May 3, 1945.

Then they moved back to Kinuso where Jack went to work for Imperial Lumber. During this time their second son, Dick Dwain, was born, May 30, 1952.

Jack and Marie then bought a quarter section of land north of Kinuso. Jack farmed the land in the summer and worked for Northern Plywood in the winter. He also worked for the Dept. of Highways in the summer.

On July 5th, 1962, Jack Churchill passed away.

Today

Leo is now in Edmonton with Doris and their two sons, Leon 5, and Kelly 3. Leo is now consulting in the oil industry.

Dick is still in Kinuso living at the old farm place. He is married to Lynn Hutchison from Widewater, Alberta. They have three sons: Eric 5, Anthony 1½ years, and Ian 5 months. Dick is presently working for Zeidler Forest Industries in Slave Lake.

Marie is still living in Kinuso and you can still find her in her berry patch. She is an active member of the Senior Citizens' Club, and has numerous amounts of hobbies which keep her busy.

Mr. and Mrs. Ralph James Clark

Written by Alyce (Daughter)

My folks, and myself, came to Canada early in 1913, from Durham, England. Dad left behind an only sister, and his Mother. He had worked as a chauffeur, had learned the watch makers trade, worked for a time as assistant to a scientist, and also

as a coal-miner. After working with the scientist, Dad would never eat pickles, or anything containing vinegar. He had seen too many specimens pickled in brine or alcohol.

Mother was the eldest of 16 children, so was no stranger to hard work. Her folks had a large store, and the children did their share of work in the store, and the home. Two of Mother's brothers had already immigrated into Canada, so when we arrived, we went to their home in B.C. until we could get our own place. Dad found employment on the boats, running on the Okanagan Lakes. In winter he worked in the mines at Fernie and Michel. We were living in Fernie at the time of the big forest fire. Only a shift in the wind had saved the small town from total annihilation. There were no roads, only the railway to get in or out on. People had grabbed their valuables in hand, and were being loaded in a box-car, while the menfolks kept a bucket brigade going to pour water on the bridge. Burning pieces of timber, landing on the bridge, had to be doused quickly as our escape route lay over that bridge. But before we were forced to leave, the wind changed, saving the town.

Mother was a very nervous type of person, and I recall a particular time of worry and fear for her. Dad was on night shift at the mine, so Mum and I spent the evening alone. One night we were awakened by a strange noise on the front porch; Mother would not open the door to look, in case it was a bear, so she began throwing shoes and things at the door which scared off the intruder. Next night it was back again and we again threw things at the door to scare it away. This went on for about a week, till Dad was on day shift. He opened the door to see what it was. Lo and behold, it turned out to be a large porcupine who liked the salt Mum had put on the porch when it was icy. Dad had to get permission to destroy it.

During the 1st World War men were badly needed at the munitions factory in Medicine Hat. Dad, with his knowledge of machinery, had no trouble obtaining work there, so we moved to Medicine Hat. My brother was born there on Nov. 24th, 1918, and I was able to start school then. When World War 2 ended, the factory closed, so Dad had to seek employment elsewhere, finding it at the rolling mill. When it burned down a year or so later, he went to work on the railway. He worked for the C.P.R. for 14 years as a fireman.

During a very slack time on the railway, Dad and three or four others (railway men) went to work in California for a few months, working for the Armstrong Linoleum Co. He was one of the workers who laid the flooring in Mary Pickford's new home. Mary was a famous movie star, known as America's Sweetheart.

During his stay there, Dad sent my brother and I many post-cards of famous places in California. I still have a folder of the Rose Bowl Parade in Pasadena. Dad always wished he had stayed in California instead of returning, when the C.P.R. threatened them with loss of their seniority if they did not come back immediately. But dope was already raising its ugly head in the schools there, and Dad had no desire to

see his children exposed to that, so we continued to live in Medicine Hat. Later the depression caused the railway to lay off many men, my Dad among them.

In 1934, when the Government had devised their "Back to Land" scheme, Dad filed on a homestead at Driftpile. I had married Charles Laight in 1933, and we were living on a farm near Three Hills, in the Sunnyslope area. I remember Charles and I drove in the wagon, 50 miles away, sleeping under the wagon one night, going to Didsbury, in order to have a brief visit with my folks on their way to Driftpile; I believe the train had a one hour stop. I remember how tall my brother looked; he seemed to have grown a foot, since I had left home.

In the winter of 1935, Dad met with a serious accident. He was returning home with a load of hay, when the hayrack caught a snow covered stump, pitching him off the rack. When he re-gained consciousness, he was lying at the horses heels with a compound fractured leg, which was beginning to freeze. The temperature was 35 below zero. He tried to climb back on to the rack, failed, so tried to get on the horse's back. In between these attempts he kept passing out. In a last effort he crawled to free the horses, thinking they would go home, and thus alert the family. But with feed on the rack they stayed. He had been calling for help from time to time, and my brother, going out to start the chores, heard his cry, and went to look for him. He had to take him home on a hand sleigh. The Nurse from Kinuso arrived later that night and took him to Edmonton, where he spent 11 weeks in the University Hospital. My brother carried on as best he could.

Dad had only been home from hospital a few weeks when my husband passed away, so he came to help me and brought me back to Driftpile with him for a few months.

In January of 1939, Dad, being dissatisfied with conditions at Driftpile, decided on a move to Kinuso where they settled on the 'Posey Place' east of town, near the Eula Creek area. He found many odd jobs to do in the community. Mother told me he repaired all Fred Prichuk's clocks in exchange for grain to feed her chickens that first year. When the new school at Eula Creek was built, Dad worked on that; Mr. Rand was the carpenter.

My brother always took care of the work at home when Dad was away on these jobs. Later, my brother joined the Army, taking his training at Grande Prairie, and going overseas in 1942. He served in Holland and France. He was wounded at Caens in France and shipped to England where he spent quite awhile in Hospital. When he was out of the Hospital he married Iris Browning whom he'd met when he first went to England. The War ended and he came home to Edmonton. Iris followed some time later when wives were allowed to come.

After my brother left home to join up, Dad found it difficult without his help, and Mother got so distressed everytime a calf escaped and got on the highway where truck convoys were passing day and night that Dad decided to sell everything and move to Edmonton. He quickly found employment in a facto-

ry making aeroplane (airplane) parts. When the War ended, so did his job. He tried one or two short term jobs, then finally went to work for Canada Packers, in the 'Maintenance Dept.' He worked there for over 14 years until his retirement. But he died shortly afterwards; he had had a heart condition for some time.

When Charlie returned from the War, he and Iris settled in Edmonton for some years. When the oil pipe line was being built in the east, they moved to Ontario, where Charlie worked on the pipe line. After Dad died, Charlie and Iris took Mother east with them. When the line was completed they all came back to Alberta, and settled in Calgary, where they still reside. Mother passed away a year or so later and is buried beside Dad in Edmonton.

Charlie and Iris have 2 sons, Gary and Richard. Gary works in the Post Office, and Richard is a qualified plumber and electrician. He is to be married in September of this year, 1979.

I had married again in 1937 to Frank Posegate, and had 5 children. Mr. and Mrs. Clark were blessed with 7 grandchildren. They did not live long enough to see their great grand-children, 16 in all.

Charlie Cline

submitted by Martha B. Cline

Charlie Cline and his brother, Harvey came into Kinuso in the early spring of 1919. Charlie and Harvey came from Ponoka, Alberta. Prior to that, the Clines had lived in the United States; Colorado and Missouri. They came to Kinuso for the purpose of raising cattle and horses. They chose Kinuso because it was possible to obtain free range land there, along the lakeshore. They also purchased a quarter section of land near the lakeshore for the purpose of growing hay. When they came into Kinuso, they brought quite a herd of cattle and horses with them from Ponoka. This stock was shipped into Kinuso by rail.

Shortly after arriving in the area, they built a livery stable in the town of Kinuso, which they operated for a number of years. As well as farming and operating the livery stable, they milked cows and sold milk around town.

Charlie enjoyed music and played several musical instruments. He often played the violin and banjo at the local dances in his earlier days. In 1927 he married Martha Grono. They lived in town until 1929 — at which time they purchased the Wilfred Hunt farm. They lived there until 1937 when they built and moved into a new home across the highway.

Charlie continued to farm in the Kinuso area until his later years. He died November 28, 1961 and is buried in Kinuso.

Charlie had studied under a veterinarian before coming to Kinuso and he was called on by the whole community to care for sick animals. Martha recalls a day when a man came to request Charlie's help because his cow had a frozen foot. As it happened, Charlie was away from home that day, so Martha told the man that what Charlie usually advised in like circumstances was to put the cow's foot in a pail of coal oil. The man thanked her and left. Shortly after the

man again came to her door and when she answered he said "Give that cow coal oil to drink, kill the cow." Obviously there had been a misunderstanding. Casey McLaughlin teased Martha for years about her veterinarian services.

Harvey Cline, besides farming with Charlie, spent a number of years clerking in Harry Walker's store. He was postmaster from 1944 until Hester and Buster took over the post-office. He died in the fall of 1958.

During the 1920's Calvin and Mrs. Cline, Harvey and Charlie's mother and father, came to Kinuso. They lived there until they died. Mr. Cline died in 1926 and Mrs. Cline died in 1935. Both Mr. and Mrs. Cline are buried in Kinuso.

Harvie Joshua Cline

Harvie was born in 1894, in Colburn, Colorado, U.S.A. He had 2 brothers, Charles and Dick, and 2 sisters, Sally and Eva.

The "Peace River Country" was opening up for more settlers after the railway went through in 1914. So the Cline Family decided to make the long journey up here in 1915. They stopped for a short time at Ponoka, but went on to Peace River, where the Land-akers had obtained pieces of land. Presumably they had been acquainted before. After a look at the country, they returned to Ponoka and settled there.

When America joined into the War in Europe, Harvie and Charles, went back to the States, and joined up in Aug. 1918, and returned to Canada in February 1919. The two brothers did not linger long in Ponoka after their return, but came to Kinuso where they started the first Livery business in 1919. They built a large barn and later added a wing on each side. They started the first Dairy, supplying milk to local residents. In the large barn, they kept the horses to supply the Livery trade, and used the wings for storing the buggies, wagons, sleighs and cutters, harnesses, and saddles. They also had saddle horses for rent.

Later Harvie obtained land north of "Town", where they kept large numbers of horses and cattle.

In 1935, Harvie took a job as clerk in Mr. Windsor Rice's store, where he worked for almost 2 years, after which he went to work in Harry Walker's store.

In 1937, Harvie married Annie Labby, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Joe Labby. Annie was born in Georgetown, Wisconsin, coming to Canada with the family when she was four or five years old.

Charles Cline in the meantime, married Martha Grono, and they purchased a piece of land about one and a half miles southwest of Kinuso (town).

In 1945, Harvie took over the Post Office and Imperial Oil Agency from Mr. McKillop. Miss Mary Prichuk assisted Harvey in the Post Office.

In 1950, he sold out the Post Office to Bert and Hester Churchill. Mr. Owen Jordan purchased the Oil Agency.

Harvie and Annie and the two children then moved to the farm north of town, where they lived until Harvie passed away in 1957.

Harvie was quite active in the community. In 1949, he served as Village Councillor and was put in charge

of Civil Defence. In 1951, he was appointed as fire and building Inspector. He also was an active member of the local Canadian Legion. He could always be relied on for assistance at funerals too.

Harvie and Annie had two children:

1. Gloria Cline — married David Curtis, and they live north of town, near the home place. They have two boys, Calvin and Dwain.

2. George Cline — married Lucy Irla. They have 7 children. They live on the old homeplace. George is employed with an Oil Rig, and Lucy works in the Kinuso Mercantile. Their oldest daughter is married and lives at Sylvan Lake. Their second daughter, Margie, newly graduated from high school, was drowned in a boating accident on the lake 2 years ago. Mike is living in Valleyview, and is married to Karen, daughter of Ruth and Lawrence Sloan. Leon, the youngest son is working at Ft. McMurray. He married Mary, daughter of George and Pearl Burque of Kinuso. They also have three daughters, Holly, Sherry and Melanie.

After the children were married, Annie Cline moved into town, where she owns her home, grows a garden, has many hobbies, and is also an active member of the Senior Citizens' Club of Kinuso.

Les and Dorothy Clow and Family

written by Dorothy Clow

Moving from one place to another is one thing, but when you move over a hundred miles, and into a completely different setting, is something else again. I made two such moves, among the other many moves from one house and into another; this being the joys of renting your homes.

I, Dorothy Leah Ward Clow, was born in southern Alberta, on my Father's homestead, with the nearest post office being Parr, about 20 miles south of Hanna, the date being November 13, 1918. We moved to different farms. Got hailed out three years in a row, twice the third year. Then the next years, our land blew away.

Leslie William Clow, was born in Calgary, December 6, 1909. He came over to south of Hanna in 1925, and this is where I first met him. The government was sending railcars free of charge for people that hadn't any crops and wanted to move. So Dad and two other families, got these cars and loaded all our stock and belongings. Les was also on this train. We came north to Rochester. One of the other families and Les, went on to Colington. Coming from a barren country and into a country full of trees and tall green grass was something to behold. We could eat fresh vegetables and wild fruit, all you wanted to eat. During the thirties was very hard years, but looking back I guess they were the best years of our lives. Nobody had any money, so everyone was the same. Then there was the War that took all the boys.

Les and I were married May 9, 1941. He also had joined the army. But due to illness, he was discharged in nine months. We had a family of nine children. The jobs were getting hard to get for older men, so went looking for a job elsewhere. I had been kept

busy raising the family, cooking, cleaning and other household chores, like carrying in water and packing out slop, which people look aghast at now. But that was our way of life. Besides I was on the executive of the Home and School, the Ladies' Club, Community Hall, United Church Board, and U.C.W., and also sending weekly news to local papers, and helping at the curling rink. Resigning from all these things, we took the plunge and came to Kinuso. Les worked for Bob Jordon for sometime, and then he worked for the Dept. of Highways for 8 years, until his retirement. I was right back into community affairs for several years. But now with the children gone, I have left that work for the younger group. We bought Roy Davignon's farm, and have lived here ever since. We bought the house of Sam Kool's, on his farm, and had it moved to our farm. It seems since Les's retirement, there is more work than ever to do, and never seems to end. The family are all grown and getting married, but then I still have the grandchildren to look forward to, maybe eventually getting this place to look like something.



The Les Clow Family.
Left to right: Dianne, Norman, Elsie, Dale, Carrie, Floyd.
Front, left to right: Pat, Ethel, Dorothy, Dad Ward, Charles sitting in front.

Carrie, our oldest is married to Jack Kushneryk, and has three boys and a girl. Clifford is out working. Gary, Jim, and Janice are still going to school.

Charles was married to Lina Vitaliano, and lived in B.C. until this last year. He has a girl, Pamela and son, Leslie, both going to school.

Elsie, our daughter married Chuck Dettman and they live at Edson. They have two daughters, Beverly and Nicole.

David, our son married Diane and they had two girls, Jacqueline and Charmaine. Both girls go to school.

David was killed in an accident five years ago.

Diane and Roger live in Leduc and have a daughter, April Shannon.

Patricia, our daughter, is the only one living in Kinuso. Pat and Jim have their own home in town, and their two daughters, Tammy and Rhonda both go to school.

Norman, Floyd, and Dale, our sons, are all working away from home. Norman will soon be married to

Sandy Stadnyk.

Ethel, our youngest daughter, is still going to school. This is the first year away from Kinuso.

Clifford Leslie is our first great grandson.

Les and I now live alone most of the time, but really enjoy having the family home from time to time. I think it's about time we had a holiday!

Mr. George Cornell

Written by his son Lorne

My Father's Oxen

When my Father and his party came over the hills to the Valley, they had several yoke of oxen and some horses. Dad never tired of telling of the rigors of that trip in the summer of 1910, and I never got tired of listening.

It was a wet summer and the travelling, along the old Klondyke Trail, was bad. Some days they only made a quarter of a mile through some of the worst of it, and one memorable day they had travelled such a short distance that the party carried back their camping equipment and blankets and camped in the same place they had camped in the morning. The reason for returning was that there wasn't a suitable place to camp where they were.

Sometimes, Dad said they had to chain the back axle to the front to keep from pulling the wagon apart. This would be when they had a block and tackle and a team on the tongue. Finally they made it through the worst of the corduroy and arrived at Deere Mountain, the height of land; from here on the going was easier. Dad said that in those days, there were lots of broken wagons and carts and other things lying along the side of the road, right where the Klondykers had left them.

Dad went on ahead at this point, to try and get some oats from the settlers in the Swan River Settlement, as the place was called. As Dad had a good saddle horse, he made the thirty miles in a short time, and bought some oats from Mr. Hunt. These he flailed out and packed them on his horse, returning immediately to the expedition up in the hills. The oats must have helped the oxen and horses, for they made the rest of the way without much trouble.

After Dad and his friends were settled in the Valley, the oxen were put to work, breaking and plowing land on their land (homesteads). Dad said, "they sure could pull a lot, and you were never really stuck, until they curled their tails." Some of the old harness they used wouldn't have held a horse but an ox was steady and they never jerked so saved the harness. Dad didn't use a yoke, and as far as I know there isn't one in the Valley. The harnesses buckled at the top of the collar, and the hames were tacked on to the free leather edge. The tugs were full leather back to the belly band. Then there was a big hook built in, the rest of the tug was chain covered with leather. These harnesses had bridles and lines.

Dad used to tell of the exploits of the oxen. Apparently, they got pretty wise and foxy; when there was hard work to do they were just as apt to be found belly deep in the water. Dad said that he'd throw

things at them but they'd never budge, then he'd have to wade in the water after them and get himself wet. I believe they sure hustled out by the time Dad reached them. At other times when Dad was looking for them, they'd hide in the bush, standing quietly, not making a move, the mosquitoes nearly eating them up. They'd stand very quiet, not even switching their tails or batting an eye, mosquitoes or not. Dad had been looking quite awhile and was fed up with the ox's tactics for avoiding work, so he let the ox think he didn't see him, either. However when Dad maneuvered close enough, still looking away in the distance, he let fly with a good whip he had cut; the ox moved out in good style then. Perhaps you'd think my Dad was unnecessarily mean, but I guess anyone who had driven oxen would understand.

By 1918, oxen were becoming pretty scarce in our part of the country, but Dad still had "Buck and Charlie"; that's where 'Mum' came in — 1918. A little later when they were going up the Valley with the oxen, she and Dad gave a small boy and his two sisters a ride. Mum said, "are your sisters twins?" The boy replied, "most about a year between them."

Prices were high in 1918, because of the War. Dad sold "Buck and Charlie" for \$300.00, a big price in those days.

Impressions of My Married Home — January 29, 1918 and Later

Quite early on the morning of April 7th, 1891 on the farm home of Mr. and Mrs. H. Douglas Moore of St. Armand West, Quebec, I entered this world. My family did not really NEED me — there were six others. Had I been one of the latter I am certain I would have thought — and said — "another one!"

My precious Mother had been Sarah French, a most correctly brought up debutante from Montreal, who at eighteen married the eldest son of the Honorable P. H. Moore, at that time Member of the Legislative Assembly of Mississquoi County in the Eastern Townships. My Father died in my infancy. My Mother, unwilling to tie my elder brothers to the farm, moved to Stanbridge East, Quebec when I was six years old. Such a beautiful hamlet with elm lined streets and the Pike River tranquilly flowing through on its winding course to Mississquoi Bay of Lake Champlain.

At fourteen I went to Kearny, New Jersey High School where I learned to love Americans, but I graduated from Girls' High School, Quebec City in June 1910. Macdonald College gave me my Teacher's Diploma and in 1911-12 I was principal of the Bury Model School. A most happy, satisfying year!

In the interval June 1912 and January 1st, 1918 my Mother and I travelled a good bit on the bleak Saskatchewan Prairie, spent a delightful year as guests of my brother Douglas Moore in Vancouver and six months as guests of my brother Philip and his family in Niles, California. We returned to Stanbridge East in March 1916. And a year of teaching in my home town followed.

On January 1st, 1918 in St. James the Apostle Church in Stanbridge East, I became the wife of

George Cornell, a son of Stanbridge. After a week in Montreal we returned to my Mother's home and on the 19th of January we set sail for my new home — Kinuso, Alberta — 190 miles west of Edmonton. We stopped in Montreal, Ottawa, Winnipeg and Edmonton, enjoying the western cities — new to me. It was bitterly cold in Winnipeg.

The train lumbered along, tossing us a bit on that upper berth. We arrived in Kinuso about 5 a.m., so very cold.

A vast change! Mr. Oscar Lillo met us with George's horses, Kid and Slim and we drove the seven miles to my husband's home. Mesdames Moore and McKillop had cleaned the log cabin and spread a tempting lunch on the little dining room table. Both ladies were kind to the bride from the East. Mrs. Moore had invited us to stop at her house for a hot meal.

Three evenings later we went to a dance in Pierce and Rice's store and did I have partners!

In general the people of Swan River Valley were kind — but some not so indulgent in their observation thought I was showing off as I maintained some ways which had prevailed in my Eastern home but were not the custom here. However, no blood was shed and I still do not alter the trend in my home to suit the public.

The women at the gathering took lunch and everyone feasted on a variety of cakes, sandwiches and good coffee. Few of the men owned a suit but they were always clean and courteous. Jack Killeen played his violin for the dance; everyone was happy and we did not dwell on the long drive home behind horses.

Our children, all generous, kind and patient with me — Elisabeth (Dent), Ruth (Hamson), Loren, Matthew, who died at twenty-nine of congenital heart condition and Douglas. Following their years in Swan River School my daughters were educated in New York and Vancouver, Loren at Vermilion Agricultural College, Matthew by correspondence as his heart condition forbade attendance at the valley school three miles distant, and Douglas at Calgary Technical.

My husband, George Cornell, died at ninety-six years of age — a loyal husband, a just Father. He was a strong character whose fine principle was never shaken for personal gain.

In the last fifteen years I have been able to travel a bit — twice to New Orleans, twice to Rome and twice to England. Some kind, thoughtful young friends brighten my life and I trust are keeping me, at eighty-seven, from being too hopelessly tiresome.

My son Loren and I share the old home which I love; I am content.

Sara Moore Cornell

The Children of George and Dollie Cornell:

Elisabeth (born February 10, 1919). She can remember the First of July sports very well and likes to tell of events happening then with zest and humour: The long drive with children asleep or half-asleep in whatever weather prevailed, coming home

from "The First of July"; Dad unhitching the team in peculiar morning light, and people being put to bed til the sun rose. Elisabeth took some of her high school in New York City.

She married Ralph Dent in Toronto in 1942, coming west in 1945. They have lived in Victoria B.C. for many years. They have three children Jamie, Gerald and Kathy.



Cornell Home — July 1950. Douglas, Matt, Elisabeth (Dent), George, Loren Dollie, Ruth (Hamson).

Ruth (Born March 20, 1920). She rode horseback to school in summer from 1927 - 1936 and by team in winter driven by Mother or Dad when quite small. In later years winter travel to school was often on foot. Ruth aspired to be a teacher and was fond of helping smaller children learn. Mathew received his basic education from her. Ruth spent two of her high school years in Vancouver. Ruth lived in Eastern Canada during the war where she met her husband, Leo Hamson, then an officer in the army. At wars end they came west and have resided in High Prairie most of the time since. They have a son, Karl, in Abbotsford, B.C. a daughter, Marilyn, in the Yukon Territory and their youngest, Laura, who is taking post graduate exercises at the U of A in Edmonton.

Loren (born August 21, 1923) in Athabasca. He has recently seen the house his mother brought him to still standing in that town. His best memories are horses pulling into the yard in the 1920's and 30's; some pet crows; the imaginative 15 year old "packing a six-shooter"; a wise father; an indulgent mother; sleeping in birthday mornings "because somebody else did my share of the milking"; many happy Saturdays roaming the woods examining old dried out beaver dams, little meadows, climbing trees, trying to lasso bear cubs etc; At 16 and 17 years of age he attended Agriculture school at Vermilion, and later spent three years in the Air Force as mechanic. He traces his Christian conversion from some time after the war. In 1953 to 55 he enjoyed a long trip east and south through the southern U.S.A.; then to B.C.

where a lifelong ambition was realized — that of riding horseback from Clinton to Quesnel in the Cariboo, he has ranched on a small scale since returning home to the Kinuso/Swan River area in 1955.

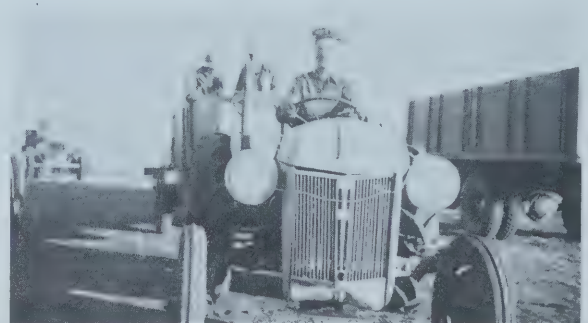


Matthew Cornell.

Matthew (born July 6, 1927), died April 9, 1956. A fondly remembered brother without great health, but gone on to a far greater reward. As his heart condition prevented him going to school he took lessons at home where he made out alright and became a good mechanic. When he grew up he ran the farm for a number of years and rejoiced one harvest when some of his oats went 110 bushels per acre. He liked cats and had one he trained to do tricks.

The last winter of Matt's life was one of his happiest when he worked for Frank Madsen cutting logs for the mill.

He enjoyed frolicking with other men and seemed to add humour to the scene.



Matthew Cornell driving Fordson tractor with George Moore and George Cornell enroute to Deer Mountain, 42 years to the day after they made the first trip over the hills.

Douglas (born July 11, 1930). He spent from 1937 to 1946 at the Valley school. Doug liked horses, cats, geese, people and just about anything that lived. As a teen-ager he attended Teck in Calgary and later worked for William Card in Kinuso in the garage. Doug married Mary Wilton in 1951. They have three children Dennis, Terry and Eldeen. Doug worked in the oilfields for several years, then went into trucking. He is now in business for himself in Kelowna, B.C.

The Bob Cunningham Family

by Mrs. Cunningham

The Cunninghams, with three small children — Rocky, Wayne, and Susan — moved into the Kinuso area in May of 1966, when Bob took up employment with Texaco of Canada.

They resided for a short time in the Wilton house, now owned by Eddie Robinson. In July they moved to Deer Mountain, and the following year Terry was born. They lived three years in Deer Mountain, then three years in High Level where Rocky and Wayne started school.

In 1971 they returned to Deer Mountain, and the three children registered in the Kinuso School.

In 1974 they purchased a quarter section of land, known as the "Old Malony" quarter from John Daren. They built a log house, and set up a small farming operation, and here Bobbi Jean was born in 1978.

Bob has coached the "Valley Raiders" boys, and the "Swan Valley Streakers" girls, for several years. The Cunningham children are active 4-H members, in both the "Beef" and "Light Horse Clubs."

David Curtis

David, better known to his friends as Butch, was born August 18, 1935. He grew up in the valley and attended school there for the first few years.

He remembers that Mrs. Julia Hunt (formerly Miss Cargan) taught him in grade one. He finished school in Kinuso.

When he left school he went to work for Alfred Tanghe driving Cat for about 16 years.

He married Gloria Cline August 7, 1964. Gloria had worked for Mrs. Agnes Beaupre for about a year after she finished her grade 11. They have two children, Calvin and Dwayne, both attending Kinuso school at present.

Melvin (Red) Cuthbert

by Ruth Sloan

My brother Melvin (better known as Red) is the seventh child of Tom and Mae Cuthbert. He was born July 7, 1930 on the farm in Peavine, Alberta. He attended the Hart River School. He left home at the age of sixteen. After walking to Big Prairie he began working for Ray Cox. He worked there through harvest which took two months, and then travelled from High Prairie to Kinuso by train, arriving in October of

1946.

He stayed with Jesse Sloan's family that first winter, and then left for Donatville to spend some time visiting our mother who was living there at the time.

The following summer he returned to the Kinuso area to work in the Hanson sawmill at mile 11, on the Swan River. During the winter of 1948, he found work cutting fire wood for an army camp in Kinuso. In 1949, Red cut pulp wood with Pete Sloan and the winter of 1952-53, he spent cutting logs on the East Prairie River for Fred Tanghe and Pete Sloan. In the summer of 1955 Red and Stanley Sloan went on a harvest excursion to Ontario. While in Ontario they journeyed to New York City. It was so hot and humid in Ont. that summer they were happy to return to Alberta and our cooler temperatures.

In 1956 Red moved again, this time to the interior of B.C. to work in a sawmill there, but Alberta has always been home to Red so he returned and has worked at several jobs in this area including driving a cat for Gib Rogne, making road to the Trout Mountain Tower in 1959, he worked at Rocky Mountain House with Alvin Lillo, and on the power line from Valley View to Swan Hills.

Red also helped handle the Kinuso Rodeo the first year it was held at Spruce Point Park which, I believe, was in 1968. Red has been a Registered Guide for big game hunters for 12 years, most of the hunters coming from the States, some of the same hunters coming back year after year.

In 1975 Red joined a group of trail riders at Joussard, which had originally started from Peace River, retracing the old Klondike Trail. There were approximately 25 riders on the trail to Edmonton. They arrived in Edmonton, after two weeks on the trail, in time to join in the Klondike Days parade, a tired but happy group.

In 1969 Red took a crew bosses' course at Hinton and has since then been working for the Forestry in the summer months, sometimes fighting fires, tree planting, or, as last summer, driving truck.

Red has owned many horses over the years but his favourites, I would say, were a big brown gelding he called "Slim", and a little black mare he named "Queen".

Red is living in Kinuso and is presently working for Marsh-Head Construction.

The Philip (Ted) Cuthbert Story

Philip Thomas Cuthbert was born in 1920 at Boulder, Manitoba. In 1928, his father, who was originally from England, coming as a young man, moved his family to Peavine, a settlement near High Prairie, Alta. There Philip helped his father on the farm until 1939, when he went to Kinuso to work in a sawmill for George Gould and Ben Brown. In 1941, he was in the army, being stationed at Grande Prairie, Calgary, Vancouver, Terrace, and finally in Prince Rupert, B.C.

There Philip, better known as Ted, met Vergie Ward who was staying with her grandmother. Vergie was born in Whitecourt, Alta., and grew up mostly in

Edmonton. In 1942, she went to Hamilton, Ontario, to work in Westinghouse munitions plant for two years. In 1945, she was working filleting fish (cod and salmon) in Prince Rupert, B.C.



Ted Cuthbert Family:
Left to right: Darlene, Shirley, Jeanette, Virgie, Ted, Ronald, Jim, Darrell.

Ted and Vergie were married Aug. 4, 1945. In 1946, after Ted was demobilized from the army, they moved to Donatville (near Athabasca) with the intentions of farming. They didn't care for the hilly and rocky country, so they hitched up their team of horses and travelled 130 miles to Kinuso where Ted had relatives. They had to rest the horses often as the highways were gravelled then. Finally after 13 days of beautiful weather they arrived at Reg and Verna Tanghe's farm Aug. 4, 1946 (their first anniversary).

They took up residence on Ray and Marie Sloan's place where Ted worked feeding mink and working in a sawmill. In 1949, he worked up the Swan River in Hansen's sawmill. It took a whole day to get there by team through rivers, creeks, muskegs, and bush. His wife swore she wouldn't leave until there was a better road. Mr. Hansen and crew finally made a corduroy road on some of the worst that fall. Ted also did some trapping for a living.

After six years of applying for a homestead and trying to buy some land through the Veterans' Lands Act, they finally obtained the quarter they now reside on. (S.W. ¼ TP73 Rge. 9 W5th)

When they moved to the farm, they had four children, Jeanette, Shirley, Ronald and James. A year later they had a set of twins, Darrell and Darlene.

After a few years of trying to grow grain on wet land, Ted changed to cattle. He supplemented his income by working out in the winter. He worked for the forestry for a few years and at Gib Rogne's sawmill driving a cat.

In July 1961, there was a flood, not as bad as the one in 1930, but severe enough. Ted lost a lot of grain, chickens, and turkeys. The cattle took off for



Jim and Clair Cuthbert, Chad and Lori-Lee.



Ron Cuthbert, Barb, Kandice and Byron.



Family Reunion — 1977.

Standing left to right: Lawrence Sloan, Mark Cuthbert, Gwen Cuthbert, Verna and Reggie Tanghe, Elsie and Raymond Sloan, Virgie and Ted Cuthbert, Mert Cuthbert.

Front row: Ruth Sloan, Melvin Cuthbert, Doris Cuthbert, Betty and Joe Tanghe.

higher ground. Ted had to use a stoneboat for a raft to get from one building to the other.

In 1971, there was another flood that was not as high as the previous one. But still, it was ornery be-

cause they were trying to build a new home. They kept having to pump the basement out. They had to haul their own gravel bit by bit because the roads were too soft for the gravel trucks to travel on it.

The children are all grown up and married. Jeanette, with her husband, Kerry Heathman and two boys, live in Smithers B.C. Shirley is married to Lawrence Terry. They have 5 children and live in Smoky Lake. Darlene with her husband Kenneth Osepchuk and son live there also. Ronald and James married two sisters, Barbara and Clair Abel. Ronald and Barbara and two children live in Slave Lake. James and Clair and two children reside in Kinuso. Darrell and his wife, Shelly Sloan, and two sons are also living in Slave Lake.

Joe and Jennie Cyre

(As told by Jennie Cyre)

Joe was born June 4, 1894 in Green Leaf, Kansas. In 1905 the family moved to Canada to homestead in Legal, Alberta. Joe grew up here and upon leaving school drove a trolley bus in Edmonton. He later moved to Whitehorse and worked on the Alaska Highway.

Upon leaving Whitehorse, Joe came to Slave Lake where he did some freighting by horse from Slave to Wabasca. In 1943 he arrived in Kinuso and went to work for the Department of Highways.

In 1944 Joe married Jennie Courtorielle, daughter of Julius and Sophie Courtorielle. Jennie was born September 27, 1918 in Kinuso. She attended school in Jousard for seven years. Leaving school she worked in Chisholm in a box factory making 22¢ an hour. She left the box factory to stay home and look after her sick mother.



The Cyre family — 1960. Velma, Leon, Shirley, Don, Yvonne and Betty.

Joe and Jennie made their first home at Eula Creek. Moving to Kinuso in 1956, Joe worked for Imperial Lumber for two years before moving his family to Lethbridge in 1958. In Lethbridge he worked on a farm for seven years before retiring and moving to Coaldale.

At the age of 80, Joe had a heart attack and passed away May 20, 1974. Jennie moved from Coaldale to Kinuso then on to Slave Lake and Edmonton and back to Coaldale before returning to make her home

in Kinuso again.

Joe and Jennie had 9 children: Lawrence, Bobby, Yvonne, Donald, Betty, Eugene, Shirley, Leon and Kelly.



Jenny and Joe Cyre at their son Donald and daughter-in-law Jennifer's wedding — 1968.

Lawrence and Mary live in Kinuso.

Bobby and Elvera live in Coaldale and have three children — Scott, Kim and Christopher.

Yvonne and Bobby live in Kinuso and have four children — Peter, Lynn, Penny and Danny.

Donald and Jennifer live in Rocky Mountain House and have two children — Darcy and Robin.

Betty lives in Lethbridge and has two children — Joe and Barry.



Jenny and Joe Cyre with their grandchildren.

Eugene lives in Kinuso and has one child — Derek.

Shirley and Phillip live in Slave Lake and have one child — Mark.

Leon lives in Kinuso.

Kelly lives in Taber and has one child — Marcie.

Bernard Czelenski

I went to Kinuso to take George Armitages' cat to work in January of 1947, returning to Saskatchewan until 1955, then I moved the family permanently. I worked for Imperial Lumber Co. until breakup, then I worked for Wm. Card Ltd., first putting in crops and later in the garage where I took my mechanics training.

I participated in the sports Kinuso offered, such as curling and baseball, and I spent many enjoyable years at these.

In 1960 I managed Central Motors Ltd. until June 1963, then after Wm. Card's Garage burned down I moved to Edmonton to help build Motel Units for Totem Service Ltd. I then returned to Kinuso and worked for Gabe Harward, who sold to Kinuso Motors. I worked for them until the middle of 1965, then went to work in Jordon's Garage until I left Kinuso and moved to Nelson, B.C. Here my son Bernard Jr. and I built our own Service Station, which I am still operating.

My son Bernard Jr. is employed with the Federal Government in the Income Tax Department at Surrey, B.C. My daughter Sherryl and her husband Brian Kirkham recently have been transferred to Penticton, B.C.

Peter Czelenski

by Pete

I (Peter), was born in 1931, to parents of Austrian descent, Joe and Sophie Czelenski, of Watson, Saskatchewan, the 9th of 9 children. We later moved to the newly opened farming area, 30 miles north of Prince Albert, Sask.

I took my schooling, from grades 1 - 9, in a one room school, with one teacher, to teach 60 students, and all grades from one to nine. We had a teacher who taught 2 years at Beaton School, who spent a short time subbing in Kinuso. Her name is Marg Jacobsen, and she is still teaching in High Prairie. I spent one year in Agricultural School in Prince Albert, then went back to the farm.

In 1949, two of my older sisters, Eva Klyne and Mary Armitage, moved from Northside, Saskatchewan to the Peace River area, to a place called Kinuso, on the south shore of Lesser Slave Lake, and they took up homesteads.

In the fall of 1950, there wasn't any work on the farm, so I ventured to Kinuso, also seeking work. I became night watchman for Imperial Lumber Co. at the Green Chain.

After a time, I went back to Saskatchewan, and farmed for another three years, but after harvest of the 3rd year, I came back to Kinuso, and got a job with WM. Card Ltd., International Harvester Agent. I then took 4 years apprenticeship for Automotive Mechanic, which I completed in 1958.

At this time, I met Christeen Myron, a first year teacher at the Kinuso School. She was an only child of David and Catherine Myron. Dave was a 30 year N.A.R. Agent, who retired in March of 1959, and moved to Victoria, B.C. He passed away before he

could enjoy his first pension cheque, or the marriage of his daughter on Nov. 28th, 1959.

On October 9th, 1960, Thanksgiving Day, we were blessed with a son, Bruce David.

The summer of 1962, the W.M. Card shop burned down, on a Sunday, losing all my tools, so again I had no work.

Wm. Card, brothers Joe and Bernard, and myself ventured to a new type of business on Highway 16, west of Edmonton, which we called Totem Service. It was a store, service station, and motel camp ground area. In 1962, I sold out and moved back to Kinuso and did free lance mechanic work. Then in the winter of 1962, I worked for Mon Max, who put in the water irrigation system in the House Mountain area oil field. At the completion of this job, I was employed by Swan Valley Service as Mechanic. In the summer on July 1st, 1977, I went to work for Harold Seppola Construction Ltd. in Slave Lake as Shop Foreman and Mechanic. On March 15th, 1979, Harold Seppola Construction sold out the shop, leaving me unemployed and on to a new field of assembling Modular Homes near Edmonton.

More on Peter

In the past, I have spent a very happy and rewarding time in the Kinuso area, with people such as Craig McLaughlin, whom I have spent 20 years, making music for many good times; also his sister Nellie.

I spent 3 years as President of the Kinuso Curling Club, Secretary of the Chamber of Commerce, Club and Scout Assistant Leader, coached the Pee Wees, and other minor baseball and hockey teams, Secretary of the Kinuso Sports Association, President of Spruce Point Park Association, President of Kinuso Fish and Game Association, member of Kinuso Legion, first Vice-President of Central Lesser Slave Lake Agriculture Society, and Mayor of Kinuso for 6 years.

Coreen Myron (Czelenski)

by Coreen

I, Christeen Helen Myron Czelenski, was born in Edmonton on April 4th, 1934. I lived in Kinuso and took most of my schooling there. I took one year at Alberta College and 1 year at U. of A., taking Education. I then changed to Home Ec. at U.B.C., taking that for 2 years, then went back to Education.

Upon coming back to Kinuso, I was immediately employed by the High Prairie School Division teaching school in Kinuso. I have taught many of the children who now make their home in Kinuso, and also many others that have chosen to make their homes elsewhere.

During the summer when I was attending University, I had the opportunity of being employed at the Banff Springs Hotel for 2 years, then I was employed by the City of Edmonton as a file clerk in the Traffic Tag Dept.

I married Peter Czelenski on November 28th, 1959. Our son, Bruce David was born to us on October 9th, 1960.

Bruce David Czelenski

Bruce, was born on October 9th, 1960. He attended school in Kinuso until grade 11, then graduated in April of 1978 from Camrose Lutheran College.

He is now attending N.A.I.T. taking Petroleum Technology.

So far, his first real work experience was in 1978 at Nipsi, for Amoco.

Mr. and Mrs. Roy Davignon

By Donna Davignon

My husband, Roy Davignon was born September 12, 1934, at Chauvin, Alta. to Mr. and Mrs. Oliver Davignon. Roy was the youngest child of a family of four boys.

Mrs. Oliver Davignon, passed away when Roy was two and a half years old. Oliver Davignon, joined the army, where he was a cook. For a number of years, Roy lived with an aunt, then in a German foster home and later in a convent in Edmonton.

After the war, Oliver Davignon bought a farm in the Legal district, when he and the boys lived for a time.

My husband Roy came to Kinuso district the fall of 1950. Brother Leo was already there. Roy, then age 16, worked the winter of 1950 at mile eight for Imperial Lumber Bush camp. The winter of 1951 Roy worked for Ross Davis, logging at Assineau at a bush camp.

Following winters found Roy working for various logging contractors. Including Howard McCrae, Ross Davis, Imperial Lumber and Fred Smith, to name a few.

One winter Roy and Clarence Quinn hauled Bam logs for themselves. Roy spent that winter with the Quinn family, where he was treated like another son.

Summers found Roy living at the Schornack Boarding House run by Harvey Schornack's mother, she was good to Roy, washing his clothes etcetera. This Boarding house is the old house on the east side of town, currently owned by the Lorentzen family. No one has lived there the last few years. Every fall found Roy out threshing, hauling bundles with a team and rack for various farmers. He worked for Joe Tanghe, Earl Rutledge and Wayne Sloan to name a few.

During this period, Roy's Dad, Oliver Davignon, had sold the Legal Place. He eventually bought the place where Les Clow and family live now.

Roy built himself a two room cabin at the east end of this land, close to where Harvey Schornacks house is now.

In 1958, Roy started working for Imperial Lumber who by then had a mill set up north of the tracks in Kinuso, Roy continued to work for Imperial until they moved in 1967. Having nine years service in with Imperial, he was asked to move to Grande Prairie with them when they moved. However the Roy Davignon family elected to stay in Kinuso.

The fall of 1962, I, Miss Donna Oldenburg, came to Kinuso to teach grade one, filling in for a teacher who had a three month maternity leave of absence. I

had decided that teaching a few months here and there was a good way to see the north country. Having been born in Islay, Alberta, which is near Vermilion, Alta., and having been brought up at various ranches south of Vermilion, south of Wainwright and then moving to Bassano in southern Alberta and another ranch which was home until I finished school and went to University in Calgary, I wanted to see what was north of Edmonton.

Kinuso was muddy and wet, the place was full of oilmen and their wives and families. The oil boom was on, Kinuso was booming. The new highway was being built, Boisverts' new store opened that fall. December 1, 1962, saw me teaching grade six in High Prairie.

During the winter, I became engaged to Roy and we were married May 17, 1963. I finished teaching the term in High Prairie, coming home to Kinuso on weekends.

At that time Roy and his dad, had been living together in the cabin. The land and main house being rented out to the Paul Hunt family.

Roy and I bought this land from Roy's dad and we moved into the old house where Les Clow lives now. We lived there for four years. Our son Carl was born March 9, 1964.

After a basement fire July 1, 1967, we sold this place to the Les Clow family.

We moved into Kinuso, buying a mobile, the first of a series of such mobile homes we owned and lived in before buying a house in Kinuso. For the next eight years, Roy, worked for the Swan Valley Service Station, owned by and operated by R. O. Jordan.



Leroy Davignon age 9, Roxanne age 10, Carl age 14.

Our daughter, Roxanne, was born June 2, 1968, and our second son Leroy, was born May 3, 1969.

May 1974, Alberta Housing Corporation, turned the keys to six houses over to the Kinuso Housing Board. At that time I was asked to take on the job of secretary-manager for these homes. This involved doing books, collecting rents, and seeing about getting maintenance work done. The fall of 1974 we, the Davignon family, moved out of Kinuso, selling our trailer to Metis Housing which is now called Rural and Native Housing.

Pete Dumont and family currently live in this trailer.

We moved to Fort McMurray, moving into a new trailer. Roy took the job of Service Man for a firm selling trailers. His job was to block, and set up all trailers that were sold.

Fort McMurray, being extremely cold in winter, and being extremely opposite (very hot) in summer

was not to our liking. June 1975, found us moving back to Kinuso, pulling a new trailer back with us. Back in Kinuso, we bought another lot, and proceeded to set up the trailer, landscaping etcetera. Roy once again worked for Swan Valley Service Station.

May 1976, found me once again hired to work for Alberta Housing. There was one difference, besides the six houses, there now was eight apartments in a Condominium style apartment building to manage, better known as row-housing. This building is located on land formerly owned by one of the Editors of this book, Vera and Casey McLaughlin and family.

May 1978, we sold our last mobile home to Rural and Native Housing and bought the Kinuso home of R. O. Jordon and family, they having built a new home on top of Prichuk Hill and to the south.

We moved into our new home November 1978. This being near the school will be an ideal spot to raise our three children.

Dolphus Davis (Giroux)

(As told by Dolphus Davis)

Dolphus was born to Alexander and Katherine on August 22, 1905 at Swan River Point where his father had a stopping place for boats when other places were impassable. Dolphus's father, Alexander, passed away during an outbreak of the flu leaving Katherine to raise three children and run the farm. She built the log cabin they lived in and made moccasins to sell to the white settlers.



Sam Sound and Dolphus Davis. This is the way they got on a wild horse in the old days. — July 10, 1926.

As a young man, Dolphus hunted, trapped and fished for a living. In 1928 he worked for a fisherman, Middy Brillon, on the Lesser Slave Lake. During the summer nets and motor boats were used to catch and transport the fish to market. In the winter nets were set through a hole in the ice and horses and sleighs used to haul the catch.

When the railroad came through he worked on the grade using wheelbarrows, picks and shovels.

Acquiring land through Indian Affairs, Dolphus took up farming. In 1932 he met Maggie Sound. Maggie was one of ten children, born to Amelia Twin and Felix Sowen on July 5, 1909 in Kinuso. Dolphus and Maggie made their first home on the farm.

Dolphus farmed his land with a walking plow drawn by three horses. To put up a fence he hauled cut posts from the bush, pulling them out with a har-

ness on his back.



Dolphus Davis' 1959 Chevrolet.

In 1959 he bought a Chev truck and a buzz saw and started a small business cutting and selling wood. He also sold hay. Many trips were made to Lac St. Anne taking people to the Pilgrimage.

Dolphus took a great interest in the social life of the district. For 35 years he was Arena Manager and pick-up man at the local rodeos. Eunice Smith, the only negro resident in the Kinuso district, worked for Dolphus as a pick-up man. Eunice is well remembered for riding around the arena on his bay horse announcing each event through a large megaphone. The first rodeo boasted one bucking horse and three riders. First prize went to Clarence Shoop.

Dolphus built the first open air dance platform on the sports grounds west of town. A structure with a wooden floor and frame, and a roof made with green boughs. He charged 10¢ per couple per dance.

Due to illness, Dolphus could no longer work his farm and moved into town and bought a house and lot. He later sold his house and lot and moved into his



Maggie Davis with her children: Betty, Doug, Dickie; Maggie holding Dwain.

new home on the Reserve.

Dolphus was a councillor for the Swan River Band for two years.

Dolphus and Maggie have eight children:

—Edith married Henry Sinclair and with their five children lives in Slave Lake. Edith helped start the Slave Lake Friendship Centre and is presently a Social Worker for native people.

—Clara married George Bigcharles of Dawson Creek. They have eight children. Clara lives in Edmonton.

—Glen is married, has two boys and lives in Edmonton. He has been in the Army for 6 years in the P.P.C.L.I. Unit (paratroopers).

Douglas married Virginia Badger of Sucker Creek. They have 6 children. Douglas works for the City of Edmonton.

Betty married Johnny Jackson and has six children. Betty teaches Kindergarten and Women's Native Crafts in Wabasca.

Richard married Anne Courtorielle, has three children and lives in Kinuso. Richard works for the Regional Council as a Student Counsellor and has been a Counsellor for the Swan River Band for four years.

Dwain has heavy equipment training and operates a skidder in the Gift Lake area.

Carol lives in Kinuso with her daughter, Theresa. Carol received her Clerk-Typist Diploma in Slave Lake and worked in the Wabasca School as a Secretary for one year.

Gene Davis (Giroux)



Gene and Eva Davis.

Gene was born July 30, 1922 in Kinuso. As a child he was raised on a farm. He went to school at the Grouard Mission for seven years. After he left the mission he went on a train to Sexsmith to work for farmers. Along with 30 men, they did all the harvesting.

They had no money to buy a hotel room so they slept in barns and ate their meals at the farm house. Wages were well earned making \$2.00 a day for hard work.

He also worked for Charles Kusch for a couple of years on his farm. He earned \$20.00 a month. The winters were spent working at odd jobs, trapping in the bush and selling his pelts.

Gene married Eva Chalifoux in 1944, and made their home in Kinuso. He worked on the railroad as a sectionman. Then he worked for Imperial Lumber.

Eva made good use of her sewing machine and made clothing for her children. She also tanned moose hides.



Two of Gene and Eva's children, Ralph and Edith.

Gene and Eva raised 8 children. Rosaline, Ralph, Edith, Gloria, Jeanette, Brenda, Gerald, Lloyd. Rosaline is deceased.

Gene was a councillor for 2 years and a chief of the Swan River Band for 6 years. Indian Affairs would give yards of canvas to the Indian people and they would make their own tents. They would live in them for the summer when they moved around or on hunting trips. In 1969, Gene went to Ottawa for a meeting with Prime Minister Trudeau opposing the white paper.

Gene is 57 years old and is living in Kinuso with his daughters and son.

Rosaline deceased had 2 children: Rosemarie, Bet-



Gene and Eva's children: Lloyd, Gerald, Brenda, Jeanette and Gloria.

ty.

Ralph and wife Marilyn reside in Kinuso and have 3 children: Joanne, Dwain, Sharon.

Edith resides in Pincher Creek and has 2 children: Cindy, Collin.

Gloria lives in Kinuso and has 3 children: Leon, Shane, Clayton.

Jeanette lives in Kinuso and has 2 children: James, Carol.

Brenda lives in Kinuso and has 2 children: Candy, Leslie.

Gerald lives in Kinuso and is single.

Lloyd lives in Pincher Creek and is single.

Gene would like to share his poem that his granddaughter wrote for him:



Rose Carlson, Gene Davis' granddaughter who wrote the poem.

Dedicated to:
Grampa Gene Davis

Tonight I'm feeling so much better,
I'll explain here in this letter,
I met someone who makes me feel good,
Because he does things just as you would,
He makes me laugh and feel at ease,
You can be yourself he likes to tease.

I've missed you since I've been gone,
I think of you often sometimes at dawn,
There's just so much to learn from you,
The way you are, the things you do,
You hold my respect because you're sincere,
I often feel lost when you are not near.

You are so special it seems unreal,
Your intellect, justice you know how to feel,
You're the person I really care for,
I wish I could love you more,
You're my grampa, I'm so proud to say,
I wish I could see you this very day.

The guy I met they call him joker,
He loves cards and loves to play poker,
He reminded me so much of you,
Writing this was something I felt I had to do,
I miss you and wanted you to know,
I love you grampa, now I shall go.

ROSE CARLSON

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Dewis

submitted by Marguerite (Dewis) Delancey

Frank Dewis from Nova Scotia, came to Northern Alberta in 1920. He and Evelyn, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. C. R. Field were married in 1921.

Frank worked for a few years in the lumber camps and sawmill at Kinuso. When the Peace River Highway was being built, he went to work on various construction jobs. In the summer of 1928 he drove a team of four mules for Kresge & Robinson Construction Co. In 1929 he went to work as maintainer-man for the Department of Public Works and remained with the Department until he moved to Edmonton in 1941.

Mr. and Mrs. Dewis have two daughters; Marguerite Delancey, Hay River, N.W.T. and Frances (Sunny) Rozell, Whiterock, B.C.

For the past six year, Frank and Evelyn have resided in Hay River N.W.T. Frank has a market garden about six miles from town. They have their own log cabin. Frank is 82 and is still going strong. He keeps up with his grandson picking potatoes each fall. Evelyn is not so good but manages to get around without too much trouble.

John Dewar

John Dewar (known as Bud to friends) was born November 28, 1915 at Beaverlodge, Alberta. He went to school and worked there until he moved to Kinuso in 1938. He married Dorothy Ihde who taught school at Kinuso. They had no family.



Bud Dewar holding small mink.

Bud had a trapline and started to raise mink. His beginning was two females and one male. He built up quite a business. He also worked for the Department of Highways. He was a very mechanically minded man and a great outdoors man.



Bud Dewar getting ready to go on the trapline, his children Dennis and Kenneth helping.

Bud had three sisters: Isobel, Mrs. Nasedkin of Beaverlodge, Agnes, Mrs. Kolbo of Redman, Wash., Mhaire Dewar of Edmonton. He also had one brother, Robert of Beaverlodge.

Bud was in the Armed Forces for two and half years and later was a Legion member in Kinuso.

Bud and Dorothy separated and he later married Elmina Nobert of Joussard and they had two boys,

Kenneth and Dennis.

Kenneth was born June 17, 1948. He married Marsha Bannister from Smith, Alberta. They have a boy, Clinton and a girl, Tanya. They lived at High Level for several years where Kenneth worked for McCullough Ltd. Kenneth now lives in Slave Lake.

Dennis was born August 4, 1950. He married Norma La Clair and lives at Coronation, Alberta, where he works and has lived for several years. They have no family.

Bud passed away following a lengthy illness at the age of 40 years.

Elmina operated the telephone switchboard at Kinuso for a year and half, then moved to Coronation and married Ed Blais, who worked for Utilities. Elmina was head cook at the hospital in Coronation for seven years. Ed Blais passed away suddenly and Elmina now lives in Lacombe, Alberta. She is now Mrs. Ed Kotow.

Cecilia Elizabeth Denison nee Sloan

Cecilia, was born October 18, 1905, the second child of Jesse and Nell Sloan in North Dakota.

Immigrated to Canada with her parents and brothers Hercel and Harold in December 1908. Growing up in the valley, she attended the Valley schools.



Left to right: Cecil (Sloan) Denison, Hercel Sloan, Tom Denison.

She married Tom Denison and they pioneered to the Sunny Valley district east of North Star, where they farmed on the east side of the Peace River, raising alfalfa and flax seed along with having a market garden, raising cucumbers, corn and some years watermelons and muskmelons.

Their children are, Jesse Joe, in California, Nellie Mae Herbison in Kamloops B.C., Vernon in Beeville Texas, Frank and James in Kamloops, and Charles who farms at North Star. A daughter Marie died at age seven.

Cecilia passed away after a lengthy illness near Acapulco, Mexico on October 15, 1973.

Tom passed away in Peace River in 1978.

Arther Dove

Arther Dove came to the Swan Valley in the summer of 1921, where he worked at harvesting. He was joined in the fall by his wife and small daughter Arlene, and his two older daughters Sylvia and Madiline and a son Walden by a former marriage. They moved in with Mr. Joe Anderson, a bachelor, where they lived for about three years. Mr. Dove loved hunting and trapping; he always owned a number of dogs which he used for hunting and trapping.

Another daughter, Juanita, was born to the Doves in the log cabin of Joe Anderson. The family moved north of Kinuso to live for awhile. From there they moved to Oregon, U.S.A. with their two young daughters. Mr. Dove finally returned to Fulks Run, Virginia where he was born and passed away Dec. 11, 1965.

Waldon Dove left the valley when he was about seventeen, finally settling in Virginia, U.S.A. where his grandparents and other relatives lived. He married Ruth Richie and had four children.

Waldon was killed in a coal mine accident in West Virginia and was buried at Fulks Run, Va. where he was born.

Sylvia married Ernest Sloan in 1927. They had seven children, one still-born; the six living were Mildred, Ervin, Gene, Vivian, Frank, and Richard, (Dick).

Madiline married Clifford Landaker, and they had five children, including twin girls. They moved to Brownvale, Alberta, where Clifford passed away. Madiline later married Robert Bowness and now is living on a farm near Whitelaw, Alberta.

Mr. and Mrs. Edward Dow

Eddy (Edward) Dow was born in Edmonton in 1914, where he lived until he was nine years old. He and his parents lived in Lone Rock, Sask., where Gavin farmed and also ran a Blacksmith Shop in town. In the early thirties when Sask. was so dried out, crops were worth nothing. They moved to Alberta in 1934, first to Spurfield, and then to Whitecourt for two years.

In 1937, Eddy married Adelaide Chaisson, whose parents were pioneers of Whitecourt. Eddy and Adelaide moved to Spurfield that year. Eddy drove a truck and hauled logs for Patterson and Fields Lumber Co. Gavin Dow worked in the Blacksmith Shop

there for that winter and in the spring he came to Kinuso.

Eddy and Adelaide and their infant son Larry, followed in the spring of 1939. Eddy helped his dad in the Blacksmith Shop for the next two summers. Those two winters he returned to Spurfield to drive truck. From the fall of 1941 until 1946, Eddy and Adelaide lived in Faust where Eddy drove a truck and worked as a mechanic for McRae Lumber Co.

On their return to Kinuso he was employed as a mechanic for W. M. Card for four years. He was self employed for two years until 1963 when he became town foreman. He stayed at that occupation until October of 1977. He is now employed at Swan Valley Service.

Eddy and Adelaide are the parents of eight children, all born in the High Prairie Hospital. They had four boys and four girls. Larry, the eldest was born in 1938, and Karen, the youngest, in 1957.

Larry moved to Vancouver in 1957, where he was employed as a car salesman for several years. In 1967, he worked in Alberta for Drisser Industries in Slave Lake and Rainbow Lake for a few months. He was moved to Anchorage in the spring of 1968. While there he met Joyce (and her three children, Tina, John, and Douglas). They were originally from Chicago. They were married the next year and have a son called Eddy, born in 1973. Larry is now International Sales Manger for the Swaco Branch, so does a lot of world wide travelling. Fortunately he has the occasional business trip to Edmonton, so he is able to see some of the family back here at least once or twice a year.

Francis was born in 1941 and has lived here in Kinuso where he has built his home. In 1965, he married Natalie Ossadchuk. Natalie came here from Gronlid, Sask. to teach grade one. Francis is employed by Kinuso Mercantile as assistant manager. Natalie is still teaching. They have two children, a boy, Terry, born in 1966, and a girl, Tammy, born in 1975. Francis was active in the Boy Scout movement for a number of years, and was a member of the Town Council. He was active on the Sports Committee and on the Recreation Board (at present).

James (Jim) was born in 1942 while Eddy and Adelaide were living in Faust. He attended school in Kinuso except for one term at Alberta College. He then took 2 years of Education at the University of Alberta obtaining his teaching certificate. While there he met Laurel Smith from Hythe, who was also in Education. Jim and Laurel were married in 1966. They moved to Vancouver where Jim attended the Faculty of Arts at U.B.C. and obtained his Bachelor of Arts Degree. Laurel taught school there during this time. They moved to Grande Prairie, where they both taught school for the 1968-69 term. Then Jim decided he would like to become a lawyer. In the summer they moved back to Vancouver where he entered Law School at U.B.C. He received his Call to the Bar in May of 1973. While living in Vancouver their son Adrian and daughter Natasha were born. He has had his own law office in Courtenay, B.C. for three years. On Feb. 14, 1979, their twin daughters Keltie and

Lindsay were born.

Dianne was born in Jan. of 1944. She attended school in Kinuso. She worked as a telephone operator for a year. She married Gerald Doerksen who was in the construction industry. Gerald was from Herbert, Sask. They made their home here until 1974. Their three children, Debbie, Dean, and Tracey were born while they were here. They are now living in a new home on an acreage near Calahoo.

Doreen was born in Nov. of 1945. She is married to Ron Beaupre, and they and their three children Doug, Kim, and Nicole live in Kinuso. They are all active in community affairs. Doreen works for Vin Rice part time and Ron is in the logging and trucking business.

Donald was born in 1949. He was educated in Kinuso except for part of grade 12 at Alberta College. He was a Cub and Scout leader for some time and has spent a great deal of time coaching local boy's hockey teams. He is employed by C. and L. Logging. Donald is engaged to Betty Locke, formerly Betty Abel from Christopher Lake, Sask. Betty has two boys, Dale and Wade.

Marilynn was born in 1951. She spent her school days in Kinuso except for 1 term at Grouard Vocational School. She is married to Eldon McDonald from Grimshaw. They have two girls Sharlene and Shawna. They lived in Edmonton for some time, but have now moved to Calahoo.

Karen was born in 1957. She attended Kinuso School. Karen is married to Victor Abel from Christopher Lake, Sask. They have bought a house in Kinuso, but have recently moved to Edmonton. Vic is in the Hot Shot Trucking business with two of his brothers. Karen and Vic have two boys Jamie and Jason.

Eddy has been fairly active in some community work such as the local school board in the 1950's, now on the Nurse's Home board, and most recently the Alta. Housing Board.

Adelaide worked on the Guide and Scout Group Committee for many years. She was a member of the Women's Institute from 1947 until they disbanded. She is a member of the United Church Women's group, and also of the Municipal Nursing Society Committee. She was also the local Red Cross representative for many years.

Eddy and Adelaide celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary in October of 1977. All eight children were home to help celebrate. Larry was the only one who was not able to bring his family with him.

Francis and Natalie Dow

It was 1963. The ad in the paper looked very appealing — COME TEACH IN THE BEAUTIFUL PEACE RIVER COUNTRY! I was just completing my second year of teaching in Willowdale, Sask. It was a rural school about 30 miles from my home town of Gronlid. The ad was just the chance I was looking for — exciting and challenging. Yes, it sounded good. My application went in immediately.

At the same time another ad caught my attention — Red Deer. Would I like it? I would give it a try too.

Immediately, a telegram arrived from Red Deer confirming a position there. I had a few days to think about it before I applied.

Soon afterward my letter from High Prairie arrived confirming a teaching position. How thrilled I was! The Beautiful Peace River Country — I had scanned through papers looking at pictures. No doubt about it. I was going.

How excited I was as I stepped aboard the bus that would take me to the beautiful North! Of course, it took me only to Edmonton that first day. Next morning was the highlight. I climbed aboard the bus; made myself comfortable and we were off. While I was making casual conversation with a passenger near me, I began having my doubts. He asked me where I was going. I smiled saying, "I'm going to teach in Kinuso."

"Kinuso!", he said. "What in the world are you doing going down there by yourself."

I was shocked, nervous, and very apprehensive from then on. I snuggled down in my seat wondering what was waiting at the end of my journey. Little did I know then, that Kinuso would be my permanent home.

The road was narrow and windy. I swear there must have been at least a hundred curves. The dust hung like an old curtain. I could hardly wait until the trip was over. After a days ride, we turned off onto a narrow windy road. I couldn't see very much except lots of trees, a few buildings, and a few street lights. Is this Kinuso I wondered? Is this the Beautiful Peace River Country? Why, I can't see much beauty. Please don't let this be Kinuso.

"Kinuso", I heard the bus driver say. Reluctantly, I got off the bus clutching my suitcase. As I walked into the Hotel, a pleasant elderly man approached me, Mr. Pat O'Shea. He helped me check into a hotel room. Supper was pleasantly served in the cafe. I began noticing friendly faces, and pleasant smiles. Oh, this is beginning to look good. Indeed, it was! People were very helpful in getting me settled. I was very fortunate to find accommodation with some very fine people, Mr. and Mrs. Harris Young.



Francis, Natalie, Terry and Tammy Dow.

Kinuso is where I met my husband, Francis. He was born in High Prairie Hospital in 1941. When he was a small baby, he moved to Faust. He lived there until 1947, when he moved back to Kinuso. He has

been a steady employee of Kinuso Mercantile Ltd. Francis has worked with Scouts and Cubs. He spent many years on the Chamber of Commerce. Perhaps, the most rewarding would be the six years he spent on the Village Council. He is enjoying his work on the Recreation Board.

We were married in July of 1965 in my hometown of Gronlid, Sask. We've been blessed with two children; a son Terry, and a daughter Tammy.

Kinuso has changed since my first glimpse of it. Now, after spending a weekend in Edmonton we sit back, in our comfortable truck and view the beautiful countryside. Three hours later we see the friendly lights of Kinuso. As we turn off to the entrance of Kinuso I say, "It's sure good to be home."

Gavin and Margaret Dow

George Gavin Dow and his wife Margaret, moved to Kinuso in the spring of 1938, and started a blacksmith shop on the north east corner of Railroad Street. The Dows used one side of the old building for living quarters until their log house was built by Marvin and Leo Lillo. Their home had been in Lone Rock Saskatchewan, where Gavin had a farm and a blacksmith shop in Town. The previous years he had

worked as a blacksmith in Spurfield, the White Construction, and then Spurfield again in 1937. While in Spurfield, he had met Ray and Marie Sloan. Ray had told him that a blacksmith was needed in Kinuso.

In the spring of 1939, their son Edward and his wife Adelaide and infant son Larry moved here. Later they lived in Faust from 1941-1948.

Gavin spent many hours sharpening blades for horse drawn graders which were used at that time. Plough shears were sharpened and horses shod. In winter months and spare time, he made wagons and wheels, sleighs, and cutters. He was always whistling or singing at his work and had a pleasant word for everyone. His wife was very fond of children and was usually surrounded by them. Margaret passed away in June of 1942. Gavin continued his blacksmith work here (except for two winters in Faust), until his death in 1947.

Biography of Dumont Family

Fred Dumont

- Born (1928) and raised in Girouxville, arrived in Kinuso to teach school in the fall of 1949.
- Board and room with the Posey family.
- Taught grades 5, 6, 7, and 8 (one room) and oral French to grade 9 and 10 students.
- Other members of teaching staff in three room school were Mr. and Mrs. Henry Lysne.
- Active with the local Chamber of Commerce.
- Played baseball.
- Skipped a curling team which took in most of the bonspiels. The other members of this team were — Doug McLaughlin, Vin Rice, Orville Eckardt.

In 1950, returned to University for one year. In May and June of 1951, taught school at Poplar View (North of High Prairie).

Returned to Kinuso in September of 1951 to remain until appointment as School Superintendent in 1963.



Fred Dumont family: Ricky, Margaret, Leanne and Fred.



Gavin and Margaret Dow with grandson Larry.

1951

- Assistant Principal — stayed with the Poseys.
- Married Margaret Vanderhorst on July 7, 1951.
- Lived in little house across from Windsor

Rice residence.

- Active in Chamber of Commerce work as President, also Secretary.

1952 - 1963

- Linda born in May, 1953.
- Was appointed part-time Secretary-Treasurer (1954 - 1961) of Village of Kinuso under Mayors Casey McLaughlin and Bill Card.
- Was Secretary-Treasurer when Kinuso put in its water system.
- Active participation in Chamber of Commerce work and Sports Committee.
- Appointed Principal in 1957. New school was being built to replace the one that burnt down in 1956.
- Moved from little house to Lysne residence.
- Principal from September 1957, to June 1963.
- Staff increased to 15 people by 1963 — School offered instruction to all High School Students from Slave to Jousard.
- Many students graduated from Grade 12 at Kinuso to go on to University during those years.
- Son Ricky born February 6, 1958.
- Margaret very active in Civil defense work — helped organize disaster services during the big flood of 1961.

1963 - 1971

- Superintendent of Schools with Head Offices located in High Prairie.
- Elected to High Prairie Council in 1964.
- Leanne born in 1966.
- Linda married in June, 1972.
- Elected as Mayor in 1967 to 1976.

1978

- Coordinator of Education North.

Margaret came to Kinuso with her Mother and brother Jack, from Delft, Holland in 1950 to stay with an Uncle, Mr. Sam Kool. She worked for the Card family until her marriage to Fred in 1951.

Linda Catherine Dumont (McDonald)

Linda was born May 8, 1953. She was married June 3, 1972, to Rick J. McDonald. Linda attended school in Kinuso until grade 4. She moved with her parents to High Prairie and started grade 5, and continued until grade 12, completing her Matriculation. Linda and Rick have 2 girls, Shawna Nicole McDonald, born Jan. 15, 1973, and Deanne Marie McDonald, born November 15, 1975. They lived in High Prairie for 6 years, and recently moved to Kelowna, B.C., where Rick is working with Mutual Life Insurance.

Ricky Dumont

Ricky was born in High Prairie in 1958, taking his schooling from grade 1 - 12 there, graduating in 1976. He has now been accepted in the North West Mounted Police. His whole life has been spent in "Hockey", from the time he was 6 years old. He won trophies in the Pee-wees, and a trophy for the "MOST VALUABLE PLAYER OF THE YEAR," in the Minor Hockey System. He has played Senior

Hockey for the last 4 years with the High Prairie Regals. Here he won a trophy as the best rookie of the year in the Senior League. In March 1979, the club won the North Peace Hockey League Championship.

Leanne Dumont

Leanne was born in High Prairie in 1966, taking her education there. She has figure skated since she was 7 yrs. old and is also a professional swimmer.



Rick and Linda McDonald.

Pierre (Pete) Dumont

As told by Pete and Susan Dumont

Pete was born to Gabriel and Mary Louise (nee Walker), in 1906 at Grouard. Pete is the great-grandson of "Gabriel Dumont" who was Louis Riel's right hand man.

Pete spent his early years in Enilda working for a farmer. Then he later helped his father haul freight with dog teams from Grouard to Peace River. This experience prove to be valuable when he began trapping in the Peace River area. Later leaving his trap-line, he worked on the new highway between Driftpile and Jousard.

In 1928, he worked for MacRae logging in Faust. Pete met his future wife, Susan Courtorielle, and married her in December 28, 1929.

Susan was born to Julius and Sophie (nee Giroux) on August 30, 1908 in Kinuso. Her family lived at Wahpah Point. She remembers their log house having no glass windows, just a gunny sack for a shield from the cold, and a stove made out of clay. Their main source of food was fish from the lake, that her father caught. Susan helped do chores on the farm, as



Susan and Pete Dumont.

they had a few cows and horses.

When they went on a hunting trip in the hills with other families they would come back with more than one moose and celebrate their good hunt at Wahpah Point. Another event they celebrated was Pow Wow Days which was held at the rodeo grounds. The people would pick a spot to set their tents and before long there was an Indian village set up. Food contributions such as flour and raisins were received from Harry Walker and others, to make bannock and tea.

Susan as a young girl went to the mission in Jousard until she was twelve years old. Her family then moved to Faust and this is where she met Pete Dumont and married him.

In 1953, they moved to Kinuso and he worked for Imperial Lumber grading lumber for many years. He continued to work for Imperial Lumber in Grande Prairie until his retirement. Pete and Susan are now residing in Kinuso. They have just celebrated their 50th Golden wedding anniversary. They have four children:

Dorothy resides in Grande Prairie. Dorothy has three children: Darlene, Wanda and Wilma.

Lawrence is single and resides in Kinuso.

Elsie resides in Vernon, B.C. and has two children: Joey and Wade.

Doris resides in Kinuso and has five children: Deborah, Lynn, Gordon, James and Sharon.

Pete and Susan have eight great-grandchildren.

Cliff Eckardt

(This is a copy of a letter sent to the History Book Committee, January 29, 1979)

My first visit to Kinuso, was in July 1934. I arrived there, courtesy of the N.A.R. freight, carrying a 74 lb. back pack. I slept one night at the stampede corral, and moved on to High Prairie, for a time. I met Marian there at a ball game.

I left High Prairie, and continued to Dawson Creek and Fort St. John. I kept in touch with Marian by let-

ter, so when I was given the opportunity of opening the new elevator, I jumped at it; that was in May 1939.

Marian and I were married in the old Walker house, on Nov. 3, 1939. Donald was born Jan. 10, 1942, and Mickey was born Oct. 31, 1946.

I left Kinuso in March 1953, and took a job in Quesnel, B.C., and moved my family over in Aug. 1953. I stayed one year, and moved to Victoria, B.C. where we stayed and made our home ever since. Both boys received their higher education here. Donald is now Manager of the Bank of Nova Scotia in Edmonton, Alberta. Mickey is a school teacher, here in Victoria.

I enlisted early in 1940, and was mustered out in Nov. 1945. I was trained in Canada, and spent the rest of the War overseas.

About the elevators in Kinuso. I have forgotten who the other elevator agents were, except my brother Orval, who took over from me. Oh, yes, Bill Flynn was one agent.

I hope I've answered all the questions you asked me, and thanks for asking me.

Yours truly,
Cliff Eckardt

Irene Eckardt (Hunt)

Irene was the daughter of Harry and Glennie. She was born at home in 1929. She married Orval Eckardt, they had three daughters, Sandra, Norma, Glenda. Irene was killed in a car accident in 1955.

Mons Ekanger

by his wife, Inga

Mons, was born in Bergen, Norway, in 1889. When he reached the age of 17 years, he went over to the States (U.S.A.) to visit his brother, who was working there. He stayed with an Aunt and Uncle, and when he was old enough to get a homestead, he left for Calgary, where they were able to get some cheap land. So, he filed on a homestead at Oyen, Alta., where he farmed for a couple of years. Then he went to Calgary that winter and enlisted in the Army, and went overseas in the 54th Battalion. He was wounded in France. After 6 - 7 months, they sent him back to Calgary for his discharge from the Army. As his health got better, he went up to Kinuso and got his second homestead by Lesser Slave Lake. He proved this land up with cattle, and then bought more land.

In the spring of 1938, he and his family (Inga and Marjory), went out to Burnaby B.C., and bought an acreage there, as Mon's health wasn't that good.

I, Inga, came to Kinuso in 1925, to visit Saulters. I was born in Swift Current, Sask. As a small child, my parents moved to the Northern part of Alberta. After I grew up, I went to Kinuso where I met Mons Ekanger. We were married in 1926. Twelve years later we were blessed with a daughter, Marjory. She married in 1959 to J. Cameron Portiou. They have three children: Sharon L. — 17 yrs. old, Mark L. — 14 yrs. old, Ian — 10 yrs. old. They live in N. Vancouver.

Jack and Maimie Erricson and Family

From an Interview with James and Marg.

Jack was born in Bismark, North Dakota, U.S.A. in 1890, but grew up in Montana. When he was young, his parents trailed their cattle and horses from Montana, to Rumsey, Alberta.

Maimie, was born in 1882 in Iowa, U.S.A. When she was 18 years old, unlike Jack's parents, her parents shipped by train to Rumsey also.

Here Jack and Maimie met, and were married. From this union, 13 children were born: Bessie, Bob, Eddy, John, Raymond, Viola, Marjory, James, Stanley, Nellie, Allen, Lois, and Jean.

Jack was always a "Rider" as a young fellow; riding the ranges and following the rodeos in Montana. He continued this kind of life in Alberta, and was one of the first riders in the 'Calgary Stampede.'

After he and Maimie were married, they moved to Drumheller, where he worked as a 'Barn Boss,' for the coal mines. Shetland ponies were used to pull the coal cars out of the mine, as they were small and could go through the tunnels.

Still, Jack's mind turned to horses. Hearing that they would bring a big price in Ft. St. John, he decided with his son Bob, to trail something in the neighborhood of 40 head there. They got as far as Kinuso in June, 1930, right in the middle of one of our famous floods. The horses had travelled many miles, and were hungry, so a stop was needed. What was there to do with 40 head of horses? He put up a tent beside the road close to the wagon bridge on the Swan River, and was told to take the horses back to the 'Horseshoe Slough,' where there was lots of grass, and they couldn't get away. If they had, they would probably have tried to go back to Rumsey or Drumheller. During the night they were awakened by the noise of one of the saddle horses, splashing in the water, and trying to get up the bank behind their tent. When they looked out of the tent, there was water everywhere. The water had come in their tent and their bed was wet. When it got day light, Bob swam out to the windfall and cut the saddle horses loose. They lost all the horses but a few head before they could get them out of the water. Two years later, the Labby boys found 4 or 5 head down on the 'Lake Shore.' Two Pinto ponies that James and Stan had picked out of the bunch, were among those found.

During this time, Jack became acquainted with Hank Griffin, and he told him of a knoll across from Fred Prichuk's farm which was high ground, and a good place to camp, so he and Bob, put up their tent there, and stayed for most of the summer, working at various jobs. Later, Jack took this land as a homestead and put in a garden, sending vegetables back to his family in Drumheller. In the fall, Jack started back to get his family, and Bob stayed and worked for Hank Griffin.

Now, it was depression times in the 30's, and people had or could get very little money, so to get home Jack decided to 'ride the rails.' Jack was no exception. Men by the dozen were riding the freight on flat cars



Jack Erricson.

or in box cars to get where they wanted to go. They usually jumped off before entering a town, so the cops wouldn't catch them. It was dark and Jack jumped on some big rocks, breaking his back. He was in an Edmonton hospital for a whole year. When he was able to get around again, he got word that he had to live on his homestead or lose it.

Now, how was he going to move a family of 9 children up to the Peace River Country? But with Jack's determination he found a way. He had a real good friend who was in a trucking business, so he asked him to bring his family and himself. The truck they came in was an old International one ton, with wooden spokes and a wood box on the back 7 x 12 ft. They put blankets and mattresses in the box and a tarp over the top. Maimie with eleven month old baby Jean, and all the children rode this way to Kinuso.

This trip is very significant as it was such an experience, and a turning point in the lives of all those children. After leaving Drumheller, their first stop was Rumsey, at their Grandparent's home. Their Grandfather was a tall man, and came and looked over the end of the truck box and asked, "Where you guys all a-g-in"? Four of five jumped up all at once and shouted "PEACE RIVER COUNTRY." The next stop was Lacombe, at their oldest sister Bessie's place, where she was running a Cafe. They all ate a big supper and slept the night, starting the next morning for Edmonton. When they got there, the children had been cooped up so long in the truck box, and were so excited to be on their way, they ran all around the Park and climbed the trees. They hoped to make it to Kinuso the next day, but trying to climb the 'Smith Hill', the old truck spun out about half way up. They had to stay there for 4 days, waiting for it to freeze up hard enough to make it the rest of the way up. They arrived the next evening at Hank Griffin's place; it was dark, cold, and there was snow on the ground, but Hank and Tillie were expecting them. They got them a hot supper, made up beds, and all were happy to be at last in Kinuso and their new home.

The next day Jack, and the boys, put up a large tent on their homestead, and they all lived in that except Marge and Viola who stayed at Hank and Tillie's until they put up their house. Jack, the older boys, Hank Griffin, Roy Schornack, Fred Prichuk, and Bill Failer, cut and skidded logs from Jack's land. With all this help, they put up a house in a short matter of days. Hank was a good man with an axe, so he made 'dove tail corners.'



Jack Erricson — riding.

There was no school except five miles away in the Town of Kinuso, so Jack donated 4 acres of his land, and a school was built there in 1938. The story of this school will be told under "Eula Creek School." The Erricson children got most of their education at this school, the first teacher being a Mr. Simmons.

The first few years that Jack was in this country, he freighted fish from Peerless Lake to Widewater to the fish plant. He worked on the highway, and ran a butchering business for awhile. The boys, as they got older, worked in the bush cutting pulpwood and balm for about ten years. Later they cut other kinds of timber. In about 1950, Jack and son James, bought a TD6 Cat, and cleared their land, breaking and plowing most of it. They also did bush work with it.

Jack moved back to Rumsey for a year or so, then moved to Ft. St. John — moved his family back to Kinuso to their farm.

Most of the children grew up here, but have since moved to other parts of the country.

Bessie — is the oldest of the family. Now retired and lives in Sydney B.C. Has 2 children, Tom and Linda.

Bob — deceased.

Eddy — makes his home in Edmonton, Alberta

John — deceased.

Raymond — now lives in Edmonton.

Viola — deceased, lost her life in a house fire when she was 18 yrs cooking for threshers.

Marjory — married to Don Haughian and lives in Kinuso. They have six children, Carol, Lois, Wayne, Judy, Marie and Jim.

Stanley — deceased

Nellie — now lives in Whitecourt, has 3 children Donna and Jack. Husband Nick now deceased.

James — married Rita Killeen and have made their home in Kinuso. They have one son Lee, who is a miracle baby being born to them, after being married 28 years.

Allen — makes his home in Vancouver. He is a Heavy Equipment Operator. He is married and has two girls, Debbie and Trudy.

Lois — lives in Calgary, married Mike Edwards, have 5 children, Don, Doug, Debbie, Danny and Dave.

Gene — lives in Prince George. Works in Lumber



Stan Erricson.

Industry. Have 4 children, Allen, Ross, Jan and Colin.

Jack died suddenly in 1961 of a heart attack.

Mamie, still lives in Kinuso in a very nice Senior Citizen Home at the age of 87 years.

Mr. and Mrs. James Erricson

I, James Russel Erricson was born on May 30th, 1924, on the Trimble horse ranch a few miles up the river from Drumheller, Alberta. My father worked on the ranch at that time. I took my first 2 years of school at Midlandvale, a small school a few miles from Drumheller. My father heard of land opening up for homesteading in the north country, so in 1930, he made up his mind to make the move to the north country, to homestead without seeing the land.

In the early summer of 1930, Dad arranged to start the trip from Drumheller with team and supply wagon, and driver Dick Sundall and Dad and brother Bob trailing about 40 head of horses. (In later years, Dad often said that the Ft. St. John B.C. area of the Peace River country was in his mind as their destination.) About three weeks later they arrived in Kinuso with their outfit. It had been raining heavily and before their arrival and they made camp east of town, and they were hit by the 1930 flood waters of the Swan River.

Now losing most of his horses in the flood, he felt he would not continue on the trip, so he decided to find a homestead in the Kinuso area. A short time



James and Rita Erricson.

later Dad went to the town of Peace River and filed on the NW-9-73-9-5 in the Eula Creek area. Dad was on his way home to Drumheller to get his family and return with them to Kinuso, when he had a fall from a freight train in Edmonton and broke his back hospitalizing him for about 12 months. After recovering from the mishap he continued his efforts to move to the homestead in Kinuso. In late fall of 1932, Dad moved us to the homestead in Kinuso. We had no schooling for the next 6 years. Then a school was built on my Dad's homestead where I picked up 2 more grades. Leaving school at the age of 14 years, I took my first job working for George Gould in a sawmill as a canter in the Eula Creek area. Later I worked in southern Alberta for about 2 years on farms and ranches. Also doing some rodeoing in such places as Big Valley, Hand Hill Lake, Ponoka, etc. I then went to Dawson Creek, B.C. in the early forties to take advantage of the abundance of work available during the building of the Alaska Highway. After about a year of working in the area, my father and I obtained and operated a Dray line there for about 2 years (along with brother Allen). Disposing of the dray business, I returned to Kinuso. In 1946, I filed on a homestead SW-9-73-9-5, joining my father's land.

In 1951, I married Rita Killeen, making our home on the homestead. Shortly after, Rita's younger brothers and nephew came to live with us. (Both parents being deceased). Ken made his home with us until his manhood, Roy and Lorne stayed with us for quite some time but also they lived with another brother Jack and wife Norma and a sister Ruth and husband Mike for awhile. Orville was with us for some time also before going to live with his mother. During these years we were mixed farming and working the winter months in different types of logging operations. I filed on another homestead 6 miles east of Kinuso on the SE-15-73-9-5, about 1965, and moved there where we still make our home.

Over the past 27 years of marriage, we have enjoyed and spoiled many nieces and nephews and our friends children, but on July 28th, 1978, our own miracle son was born, Lee James Ken, ours to love and spoil as we wish.

We spend our time raising Semmental cattle and draft Belgian horses.



Lee Erricson, miracle baby after 27 years of marriage.

Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Field

submitted by Margaret (Dewis) Delancey

Mr. and Mrs. Field came from Nova Scotia to Bowden, Alberta in 1910. In 1912 or 13, they moved to Kinuso to establish a lumbering business.

They had three sons, Roy, Ronald and Arthur, and four daughters, Mary, Evelyn, Louise and Naomi. There was no school when they arrived, so Mrs. Field, a former teacher in Amherst, Nova Scotia, taught her own and neighboring children in her home.

Mr. Field logged in the Swan Hills in the winter and boomed logs down the Swan River in the spring. The mill was about a mile south of Kinuso. The mill operated until the mid-thirties when Mr. and Mrs. Field retired to Courtenay, B.C.

Mr. and Mrs. Field passed away in 1959 and 1964, respectively.

The Clarence Field Story

This is a story written by his son "Roy" Field

Clarence Field, his wife Flora, and his seven children, who were the following ages when we came to Kinuso. (Swan River)

Roy — age 15	Arthur — age 9
Mary — age 14	Louise — age 6
Evelyn — age 12	Naomie — age 5
Ronald — age 10	

We arrived in Swan River in the spring of 1915, making the journey by railroad. We brought with us our household effects, livestock, and farm machinery.

We first settled on the Bob Cormier farm, now owned by Wayne Sloan. After harvest, we moved to an adjoining farm, now owned by Ed. Quinn, staying on this farm for a year.

A school had opened in the Valley, so we children attended there for the next year, a Mr. Dain being our teacher.

In the meantime our father, (Clarence) filed on some land down the river some distance which was later sold to Bill Roffey. However, before our furniture was all moved to our new home, the house which we had just vacated burned down; the rest of our furniture and all our clothes were destroyed. Our

kind friends and neighbors presented Mother with a sewing machine. With this she was able to make clothes for all of us, as she was a good seamstress.

Now, as the Valley School was too far for us to go to school, and Mother being a licensed Nova Scotia teacher, we started classes in our home for all us kids and some neighbor children. Some of these were the Lillo children, (Irene and Leo) Dojie Vanderaegen, and Vera Whitecotton. But it was not long before a school was built in town, (1922) and so she was to send us there.

At this time Dad bought the saw mill that was owned by Jim Harrison and John Adams. It was situated on Joe Labby's land about halfway between the town and the lake. Here Dad, and us boys operated it quite successfully until one night it burned to the ground. We re-built it and carried on.

But, in 1924, tragedy struck our family in the loss of my youngest sister Naomi, who died at the age of 12. We were stunned for a long time, but carried on with the mill until 1925.

Dad then built a store in town and ran it for a year. It was a two storey frame building with living quarter upstairs. It was later called the "Old Bake Shop", and then later rented to Bowens for a Restaurant.

We then moved and re-built the mill in a new location, from north of town to 1 mile south, which was part of our original land, where Fred Labby now lives. Here Dad built a large double storey frame house, and here our family lived and operated the mill until 1944, when Dad, Mother, and Mary moved to Courteney, B.C. A short time later Ronald and I joined them and built a real up-to-date mill.

Dad (Clarence), was instrumental in organizing the U.F.A., which built the first community hall, called the U.F.A. hall in which many of the early dances, meetings, clinics, elections, church services, many social gatherings, and at least one wedding, Vera Whitecotton's, was held.

More About The Fields

Roy Field — oldest son of Clarence and Flora Field.

It is not uncommon for lumber manufacturer to take people to their mills to let the public see the industry at work.

But with Roy Field, it's just the opposite. He takes his mill to the people.

Mr. Field, president of Field's sawmills in Courtenay on Vancouver Island, B.C., had a 14½ foot scale model of the mill he and his brother operate and it never fails to excite interest when it is displayed at fairs, exhibitions and conventions in the Courtenay area.

Mr. Field started building his model mill five years ago when he made a demonstrator model of the automatic carriage unloader he had patented.

Having made one model, he decided he would carry on and make a model of the rest of the mill. The model, three and a half feet wide and standing five feet above the wheeled dolly on which it stands, contains 225 moving parts and it does everything the real thing does.

Big problem about building a scale model mill is that there are no parts available and no blueprints to work from. Everything has to be specially made or some existing piece of machinery modified.

For example, Roy Field's model includes parts of a typewriter, sewing machine, washing machines, bicycles, and even the steering sprockets of a model T Ford.

Four electric motors drive the model: two one-horse power motors; a half horse and a third horse, the latter working the compressor which produces 80 pounds pressure for the gun shot feed using air instead of steam.

The 25 individual saws were made up for him. But for chain he used 75 feet of ordinary bicycle chain; 25 feet of quarter inch pitch chain, and 30 feet of three eighths chain. The model has 65 v-pulleys.

At present Mr. Field is working on a chipper, model of the one he and his brother will install in July to provide pulp chip for Crown Zellerbach. They'll install a barker too, but at present Mr. Field has no ideas about a model barker.

Besides, his lathe serves very well as a barker for the "logs" which go into his model sawmill.

Roy Field passed away 1976 in Courtenay B.C.

The Field Family Early Settlers of Swan Valley

(submitted by Charlotte (Lottie) Field)

In the late spring of 1915, Clarence Field and his fifteen year old son, Roy arrived at Swan River.

There was little more than a station — a few tents and a small store. They rode in their box-car of settler's effects from Bowden, Alberta.



1926 — The Field family: Evelyn, Roy, Leona, Blades, Art, Marguerite, Louise, Frank Dewis and Ron Field.

They settled on a farmstead previously owned by a man by the name of Good, whether it was, or not, the family always called it the Good Place. Mrs. Flora Field and the six other children followed, and farming of the land began.

When school opened six of the children enrolled, Roy, Mary, Evelyn, Ronald, Arthur and Louise. Roy's school-days at the Swan Valley School were short, since he had passed grade seven and covered part of grade eight. He was young, but a good worker. During the winter he freighted frozen whitefish on



Mr. and Mrs. C.R. Field.

Lesser Slave Lake for the fishermen fishing through holes in the ice. The horses nostrils would require attention or they would fill with ice and the animal would suffocate. The fish buyers at Widewater bought the fish and shipped the fish by train to Edmonton in cold-storage cars.

The following year Clarence Field bought a sawmill from Jim Grono and moved it onto land he had taken-up between town and Swan Point, south of the railroad. He had built a two-story lumber house and had moved the family and some of the household goods. During the process of moving the three boys were sent with the team and wagon to move more of their goods. They built a fire in the stove and ate lunch but before they had time to load the wagon, Arthur developed a severe nose bleed and was rushed home. The side draft must have been open on the stove, since, during the night the house a log structure, burned to the ground. The people of Kinuso and Swan Valley generously took up a contribution and bought Mrs. Field a Seamstress sewing machine knowing she was a fine dress maker.

The mill was operated for the next few years until it mysteriously burned one night, no fire being anywhere around. The family moved to a homestead across from the town of Kinuso, (the farm Mr. Roffey later bought). There they built another two-storey house. Mr. Field and Roy farmed and Mrs. Field taught the younger children and a few neighbor's children until the Kinuso School was started. Mrs. Field was an ex-teacher of Nova Scotia.

Clarence Field then took up land across the Swan River and built a sawmill between the river and a slough. A house, a cook-house and bunk-houses



The store and living quarters built by C.R. Field that was later known as "The Old Bake Shop".

were built near by, but they still grew crops on the homestead across the river.

Mary married Raymond Patterson and moved to B.C. and Evelyn married Frank Dewis, and later they settled across the river. In 1924, tragedy struck when Naomi, the youngest of the family died at the age of fourteen years.

Mr. Field had returned to Nova Scotia and brought his widowed mother to make her home with them, however in 1926 she passed away in her sleep and was buried in the Swan Valley Cemetery beside her granddaughter Naomi.

Roy married in July 1927, to Charlotte (Lottie) Leary, a B.C. teacher who took over from a Mr. Kenny who left Kinuso on account of illness.

Louise went to Alberta College in Sept. and in the late fall had an operation, returned home to return to school to complete a business course the next year. From then until 1938, she worked in the Bureau of Vital Statistics in Edmonton, married Peter Krull and left to make her home in Ontario.

Arthur married one of the local Government nurses, Jessica French, and Ronald, who was then engineer at the Canyon Creek Fish Hatchery, married Lil Holliston, and in 1939 joined the R.C.A.F. In 1940 Roy and family moved to B.C., where he took a millwright job. He built two mills and rebuilt a third, before moving to Courtenay in 1945. He and Ron in the early 50's built the Field Sawmills by the Courtenay River.

Clarence and Mrs. Field moved to Courtenay in 1944 and lived to see their 86th and 82nd birthdays.

The Ron Fillion Family

by Judy Fillion

Ron Fillion and family moved to Kinuso, Alberta, October 1970. At the time Ron and Judy, had five children; the oldest was David, age 10, Patricia, age 8, Kim 7, Todd 6, and Mary 5.

December 1970, we bought ten acres of land, including a house, from Mr. Paul Hunt; to make our new home in Kinuso.

At the time Ron was working for oil companies clearing lines. We started a little farm, with chickens, pigs, milk cows, and other cattle. We also do some gardening to keep us going with fresh vegetables during the winter months.

In 1977, Patricia Fillion was married to Mr. David Gibson, on September 3rd. David had been known to the family for at least four or five years.

In 1977, Ron Fillion, and Dave Gibson, formed a Company called F and G Logging, and Line Clean-up Ltd.

On March 30th. 1972 — there was another addition to the Fillion family, a girl, who was named Cindy Irene Fillion.

March the 4th, 1978 — Ron and Judy's first grandchild was born. Their Grand-daughter's name is Stacy Gibson.

Also, in 1978 — there was another child born to Ron and Judy, whose name is Len Michael Fillion.

William Flynn and Family

by the Flynn's

William and Jeannette Flynn and Sharon, age 3, arrived in Kinuso, the summer of 1952.

They came from Whitelaw, where Bill had managed the Midland and Pacific Grain Co. elevator, for 3 years.

Originally from Edmonton and Calihoo, he had met and married Jeannette Lagasse in Girouxville, where she grew up.



Bill Flynn (Agent 1963) Busy day at U.G.G.

On arrival in Kinuso, they moved into the Midland and Pacific residence, next to the United Church. Bill bought grain in the modern, year-old elevator for the next 15 years. In 1954, United Grain Growers Co. acquired ownership of the Midland and Pacific, and became Bill's employer.

Jeannette resumed teaching that September, after having taught in Girouxville for 2 years. School was in the old U.F.A. hall till Christmas, when classes were returned to the newly built school.

I continued teaching till 1967, mostly in the grade 3 classroom, except for the 1955-56 term. Vicki Lee, was born Dec. 3rd 1955.

The family moved to Calgary in July, 1967, where Bill is now semi-retired.

Jeannette — is still teaching.

Sharon — married Davie Milne in April, 1971, and they have a son, Jarrod David William.

Vicki — married John Fauvelle in December, 1975. All are in Calgary, where Sharon is a teacher. Vickie is a secretary.

Patrick H. Foley

Patrick H. Foley started with the Forest Service in November, 1945. He was a Ranger in Smith and Slave Lake before going to Swan Ranger Station.

Pat arrived at the Swan Ranger Station in the spring of 1953 with his wife Cecile and three children. Lou, Patricia, and Doreen.



Pat and Cecile Foley — 1965.

They stayed there until May, 1957 then moved into Kinuso. The first house was built at the new Ranger Station just out of Kinuso, in 1958. Pat and his family moved into the new home in January, 1959, but were only there a few months when he was promoted to Check Scaler and moved back to Slave Lake in July 1959.

Pat retired from the Alberta Forest Service in 1967 due to poor health. He passed away in November, 1968.



Pat Foley taking provisions for forestry camp.

Patricia Foley married Francis Cyr in Slave Lake on January 22, 1965. Francis works in the oil fields in the Slave Lake area. They have three children; Murray — age 14, Richard — age 11 and Madelon — age 8.

Lou married Sheila Hugo of Smith on Oct./70. Lou is with Alberta Forest Service and is presently stationed at Lac La Biche. They have three children; Hudson — age 6, Jason — age 4 and Trisca — age 3.

Doreen, the youngest, married Gary Davis of the Mayerthorpe area on Sept. 2/66. Gary is with the Alberta Forest Service and was stationed at Wabasca at the time of their marriage. They moved to Kinuso Nov./66, then moved to Whitecourt in the spring of 1971. They were there until Sept./73 except for 6 months that they were in Hinton while Gary went to Forestry school. They moved back to Kinuso in Sept./73.



Doreen, Gary, Kelly and Kim Davis.

Gary and Doreen have two daughters. Kelly Lee, born July 6, 1967. Kim Lorraine, born July 13, 1970.

Mr. & Mrs. William George Francis

Bill Francis was born in Simcoe County, Ontario, October 2, 1893. He came to Scepter at an early age. Ruth Avirco Crocker was born in Hudsonville, Michigan, February 5, 1901. When she was four years old, she went with her parents by covered wagon to

Portland, Oregon. In 1912, Ruth and her father came to Scepter Sask. and homesteaded there.

In 1916, Bill Francis and Ruth Avera Crocker were married on February 22. In 1926, they moved to Alsask, Saskatchewan. That was when the dry years started and they just couldn't make it farming. My Dad's Uncle Ed Moore, persuaded him to come and look at land in Assineau, Alberta. Dad liked it so he homesteaded there in 1929. In the spring of 1931, we moved to Assineau. We loaded all our belongings in box cars. Dad and my two brothers Wim and Waldo, travelled in the box cars with the stock on the freight train, while Mother and the rest of us came on the passenger train. We got off the train at Assineau, but Dad wasn't there to meet us. He had gone to Canyon Creek expecting to meet us there. I can remember how scared we kids were. We hung onto our Mother tightly as we had never seen trees before, and our Uncle in Saskatchewan had told us there were wild Indians up here. Mother was carrying the baby in her arms and trying to walk to the Schaffer place about a half mile away. We had slept in the station all night and were dirty and tired. Mrs. Schaffer gave us a hearty breakfast and then we were put on a wagon and taken three miles over a very rough road to our Uncle Ed's place. Dad had taken his homestead nearby. In time we proceeded to build a log house, clear a garden spot. We grew a big garden so had plenty of vegetables. Wild meat was plentiful too. We had to prepare for winter also.

In 1933, Dad and Mother decided we youngsters had to go to school. So Dad rented the Dick Riggs farm up the Swan Valley, which meant we were on the move again, putting our belongings in two wagons, with Mother driving one and Dad the other. The youngest children rode in the wagons with Mother and Dad while the oldest children walked and drove the cattle up the road to Swan Valley. We camped one night going up. We came up the highway to the old Lillo house, then took the Valley road to the Riggs house where we forded the river and arrived at our destination.

Dad started farming and the children went to school. We had to walk one and one half miles to school which was across from the Onstine's place.

I remember how happy we were to start school. Miss Bakken was our teacher and what a wonderful teacher. She later married Fred Bowen.

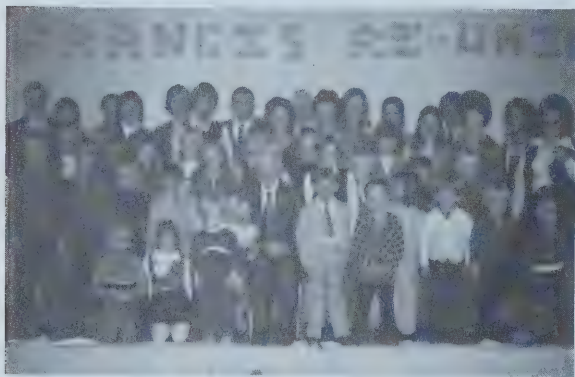


Bill Francis family.

Dad farmed there for 2 years during which time another baby was born. It was born in the Riggs house which still stands.

Dad would take us all to Sports on the first of July and to the Community Picnic on the Jess Sloan place. Everyone made lunches and gathered from miles around for these picnics. Ball games were played by the adults and races run for the children, while everyone ate together. We always had a real nice time.

In 1935, Dad had to move back to Assineau, or lose his homestead. So we moved back again. Bill and Ruth raised their family at Assineau. There were six-



Bill Francis with some of his grandchildren.

teen children born to Mr. and Mrs. Francis, three which died young. They are scattered in different parts of the country. Wm. Francis — Edmonton, Eileen Almost — Oakville, Ontario, Joyce Perry — Slave Lake, Waldo Francis — Assineau, May Turbine — London, Ontario, Walter Francis — Scarborough, Ontario, Willard Francis deceased at fifteen years, Lillian McLeod — Fort St. John, B.C., Wayne Francis — Widewater, Alberta, Kathleen Docker — Winnipeg, Manitoba, Carol Bralko — Leduc, Alberta, Grace Reppen — St. Paul, Alberta, Pamela Fedorauk — Edmonton, Alberta.

Ruth Avera Francis passed away Feb. 2, 1955. She was buried on Feb. 5, 1955 in the Swan Valley Cemetery. Bill Francis is 86 years old and still lives in Canyon Creek during the summer. In the winter months he travels around visiting the children and grandchildren.

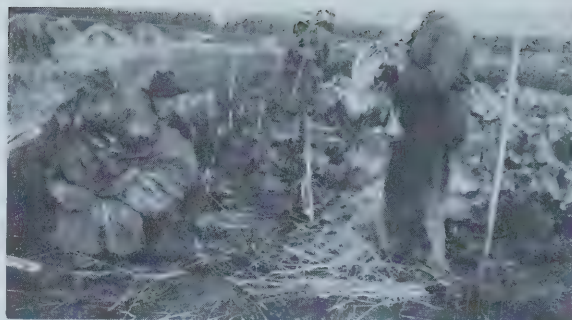
(written by daughter Joyce Perry of Slave Lake, Alberta)

The Furnald Family

By Vern Furnald

Ray and I, and a brother-in-law rented a farm three miles west of Brockett. We had twenty six head of horses and we seeded nine hundred acres of grain. It was so dry and windy it blew the crops all out and piled up the soil like snow drifts around the buildings and machinery. There wasn't enough feed for the horses and cattle. They were dying from eating so much dirt along with the little grass there was, they got sand in their stomachs.

Ray and Dad went to Swan River to cut hay, they tried shipping it down for the stock in the fall of 1919,

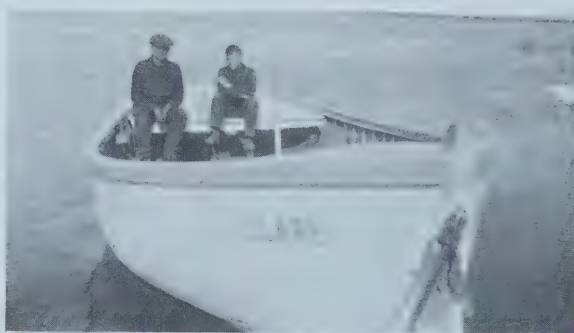


Harriet and William Furnald's 25 lb. cabbage grown in their Swan River garden.

but freight cars were scarce, so Dad came back to Brockett, there he got a box car to put the animals that were left in, loaded up our household necessities as well and headed for Swan River.

Ray and I travelled in the box car all the way, pulling grass for the animals enroute whenever the train stopped. I believe it only went about 10 miles an hour. We arrived early in January, 1920, with only two or three horses left, and I don't remember how many cows.

We lived in a tent for awhile with a floor and walls of lumber, until an Indian family vacated a log house, and we were able to rent it, here we had lots more room.



Boat built by Ray Furnald, named after sister Claris.

I got a job at Slave Lake working for Dunvegan R.R., I was hired as a Steam Engineer for a paddle boat to haul logs. The Indians got out the logs and made a boom for the boat to haul them to a spur railway. It was a flat bottomed boat, it's a wonder it never sank. The lake would get pretty rough, one time we had to shelter at Dog Island, until the wind calmed down.



William and Harriet Furnald's garden in Swan River in 1922-23.

I left Swan River in the fall of 1921, and was married in December, to Rose Gates.

I worked in the Turner Valley oil fields.

We have two children, Verna and Jim. Jim lives at Medicine Hat, and works for the Wheat Pool elevators.

Verna is a nurse at the Rimbey Hospital.

My wife Rose died August 1966 and is buried at Bentley.

I live in my farm home near Sylvan Lake, Alberta.

Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Furnald

By Daughter Claris Burkholder

I was glad to move away from Brockett, our Dad had sold our place, we were staying in Brockett until we knew what we wanted to do.

I had just finished writing grade ten departmental exams before we left.

When we arrived in Brockett all we had was wind and dust. When Dad and Ray returned from Swan River we got everything ready to move. Our train was late, so Dad, Mother, Irene, myself, my sister and her two children lay on the benches in the depot until the train came in. There was no restaurants or hotel there. We were on the train so long that by the time we got to Calgary, we were all sick, so we went to the nearest hotel, and to bed.

We waited quite awhile for the freight train to get to Calgary, so we could see how things were going, before we went on to Edmonton. In Edmonton we had another long wait, by this time the animals were so weak they had to be held up with ropes to keep them from falling. We finally left Edmonton on the E.D. B.C. Railway, arriving in Swan River three or four A.M. in January 1920. There was so much snow we had to stay on the roads or we were waist deep in snow.

Dad took us to Mrs. Beagles' restaurant and rooming house for the rest of the night. We had to look for our rooms, Irene and I had a single bed to sleep on, so didn't get much rest that night. One of the families that Dad and Ray met while haying later on, was from Kentucky, U.S.A. The wife explained the meaning of E.D. B.C. Railroad as this, "Eat Ducks and Be Content". Times were sure hard then as the first World War had just ended, jobs and money being very scarce.

Vern and Ray arrived with the freight train eventually, with only two horses left and I don't remember how many cows.

We couldn't find a place to live so we stayed on at Mrs. Beagles' for awhile.

My Dad, Vern and Ray got a job putting up ice. When they came back they had a tent, they built a floor and side walls of lumber and put up the tent. They got a box heater to heat it with. It was quite comfortable by day, but very cold at night.

A month or so later some Indians vacated a log house, and we were able to rent it, with curtains up, we had a home again, and more room to move around in. I stayed on and worked for Mrs. Beagles.

We weren't used to living where there were so

many trees, after living on the prairies, it seemed like prison, until I got used to it. When the snow melted we began to enjoy the country, and a nice friendly country it was. There were nice clean dances in a hall where children could sleep. There was a kitchen where we could fix lunches and dinner on occasions. They didn't have a piano in the hall, so Dad told them if they would pay for the packing and transportation he would have our piano shipped in. The piano, now 74-75 years old, had been purchased from a neighbor, whose son had been killed (probably overseas) and we had stored it at Stavelly until we were settled.

I like to remember the good times we had when we went out in the country to dance, the boys would get the bob-sled with a grain box on, we put straw in the bottom and covered up with quilts to keep warm. A Mrs. Patterson gave birth to twin daughters and died shortly after. My mother took the twins, but found that little Elda was sickly, so she had Mr. Patterson take her to the hospital in High Prairie, but she did not recover. Leta, the other twin, stayed with my folks till they left Swan River or Kinuso as it was now named.

I had left Swan River before my Mother and Dad, to go to Big Valley to help my sister and brother-in-law, they had started a dairy farm there.

While I was there I met my future husband, Alvin Burkholder, a widower with a small son.

We were married April 7, 1926. We had seven children, four sons and three daughters, eight children in all with my stepson Virgil, their names as follows; Donald, Joyce, Jean, Ruth, Bob, Gerald and Wayne. They are all married, three are farming, three in business, one is a nurse and one is with an oil company.

My folks died in March of 1936, thirty two hours apart, with a double funeral and are buried in Stavelly.

My husband Alvin was killed in a car accident in December, 1944. I am at present living in my own home in Didsbury, Alberta.

George Gallagher

George Edward Patrick Gallagher is the youngest child of Martin and Margaret Gallagher, he was born in Edmonton on April 15, 1926.

George has lived in the Valley all his life except for several years that his parents lived in the United States when he was very young. He attended the old Valley School until he was 16 years old and then as a young fellow worked out on logging operations besides helping his father farm.

In 1951 he married Marjorie Leona Hunt. Marj is the youngest child of Glennie and (Harry) David Hunt. She was born at home (which is where Glennie still lives) on December 10, 1934. Liz Swanson and Esther Onstine were present at the delivery. Marj attended both the Valley school and Kinuso school.

When George and Marj married they settled on their farm in the Valley. They have six children.

Eleanor Cecilia, born 1952 — she married Sanford Cox and lives in High Prairie. They have three children, Stacey, Tricia and Conrad.

Beatrice Ann born 1954 — Beatrice is in Early



Marjorie, George and Grant Gallagher.

Childhood Services in Lac La Biche.

Margaret Irene born in 1957 — Irene is married to Donald Yarosh, they live in Edmonton and have two sons, Dustin and Troy.

Mildred Louise born 1959 — Mildred works in High Prairie.

Grant George born 1963 — the only son is still attending school.

Tara Leah born 1972 — Tara is the pride and joy of the whole family.

While George was getting his farm established he worked out for the Dept. of Highways, in the oilfields and later acquired a Cat which he kept busy in the area. He has expanded his original small herd of cattle to a large herd, which now takes his full time to care for. He has the original land of his father plus other land he has acquired through the years.

John M. Gallagher

In the beginning the official record shows that I arrived on the banks of the Swan River on June 1, 1917.

The unofficial record told me that I was ushered into this world by Mrs. Dora Harrison (Stuck), who at the time was the respected midwife of the community.

While growing up in the community, people told me 1917 was also the year that the railroad trains came to Kinuso. Someone senior to me will have to straighten up that record to see who tooted their whistle first.

Raymond Sloan and I started school the same day in 1923. It was a spring school opened just before my 6th birthday. To my recollection, it was the second year of use of the Valley School located on the Cupps homestead. We also finished school on the same day there some years later.

The recollections of one of the best times of my life is of the lean depression years. Everybody was hard up for money. The hen house, vegetable garden and the moose woods were the larder for most of us, no one counted calories.

Most people likely remember me as a late matur-

ing, shy individual without much smart lip to add to conversations.

Late in 1937, I departed Kinuso for Portland, Oregon where it was possible to work one's way through Airplane Mechanics School.

Following graduation from school, my employment has taken me from Alaska to Carolina working as an airplane mechanic, pilot, and flying instructor. It has been a lot of fun; I likely would have made more money had I stayed on the Swan River and worked hard exploiting some of the natural resources. I have always been one who spends little time looking backward. Maybe because someone would be there, catching up.

In 1945, my wife Patricia and I were married. She had her first trip to Kinuso that autumn. We raised Carol, Peggy, Linda and Carl who are adults now and out chasing down their own rabbit tracks, which includes four grandchildren.

David Gardner

Dave Gardner was born in Wisconsin, U.S.A. in 1864, he came to Swan Valley about 1920 and filed on a homestead where he built a small log cabin. He cleared his land and although he didn't farm himself, his land was worked by his relatives.

He lived alone until his health failed and then moved in with his sister, Mrs. Martha Sloan, and her family. He was known to many as Uncle Dave. He passed away June 1, 1937 and was buried in the Swan Valley cemetery.

Russell and Helen Gillett

From a letter received from the Gilletts

On the 19th of March, 1946, Russ and Helen moved into Kinuso to go into business with (Ernest) Curley and Francis Roe. They took over the Pool Hall, formerly owned by Bennie Boisvert. Francis and Helen started, with much help from Louise Roe, a beauty parlor.



Russ Gillett, August 17, 1961. Hanna Thomson at left.

Russ was born and raised in Edmonton and had just finished a 3 year stint in the Navy.

Helen was born and raised in Milton, Ontario. They were married in Edmonton on the 16th day of March, 1946.

The Roes and Gilletts were business partners for six months, then Curley on the advice from his Dr. returned to his former occupation of trapping. Francis also left the beauty parlor business at this time.

Russ not only ran the Pool Hall, he also did the barbering, helped out in the Undertaking business, was an active worker in the Legion, the Boy Scout Movement, and served on the Town Council, and the United Church Board. Russ also carried the mail for 5 years, and drove a school bus for 15 years.

Helen served as leader in the W.I. Girl's Club, the United Church Women's Aux. and the Legion Aux., she taught in the United Church Sunday School, and in the early Childhood Centre in the school.

In the spring of 1967, Russ closed the Pool Hall, and took the job of janitor in the school. In 1971, Russ and Helen left Kinuso in order to further their education.

The Gilletts had three sons, all born in High Prairie.

Thomas Russell — born in 1948, he married Diana French from Fredricton, N.B. in 1970. They now live in Chipman, N.B. where they are both teaching high school. They have one son, David Thomas, born April 4th, 1978.

Eric — married a Kinuso girl, Poullett Boiley, in 1970. They now live in McKenzie, B.C. where Eric is a Forest Technician. They have 2 sons, Kire Derrick, born March 3rd 1972, and Aaron James, born Sept. 19th, 1975.

Martin — is living with his parents in Bonnyville, and plans on attending N.A.I.T. for a two year course in Civil Engineering.

Russ, now is a salesman for a contracting company, and Helen is teaching in the E.S.C. Centre in the Notre Dame Ele. School.

To quote Russ and Helen: Kinuso was very good to the Gilletts, and they enjoyed a very active and prosperous 26 years in the community.

David and Josephine Griffin



Dave and Josephine's Wedding.
Left to right: Mrs. Curtis, Josephine, Dave, and Della Griffin.

Dave was born in High Prairie in 1934. He attended school in Kinuso. He worked at a lot of different jobs. He worked in the mill here, which was one of his first jobs. He likes working with horses. He, Dennis Sloan, and Butch Doerksen, won the 1976 wild horse champion saddle in Spruce Grove. He is one of four children.

I, Josephine, was born in High Prairie in 1938. I attended school in Swan Valley. Later on, I attended school here in town. Dave and I were married in 1957 in the Kinuso United Church.

We have four children: Chris, age 20, Dean, age 18, Brad, age 16, and Tracey, age 8. Chris attended school here and also in High Prairie. He works on the oil rigs, and also falling and logging. Dean went to school here and later attended school in Edmonton. He also does bush work and at present works on the railroad. Brad and Tracey are still attending school here.

Agnes S. Grono

"Grannie" Grono, as she was known to most, was the mother of Emanuel. She and a younger son Wilfred came to Emanuel's after her husband's death in 1909. She lived in the valley first with Emanuel, then with Wilfred until 1920 when she retired to Haines City, Florida. She lived there with her older son, Lemuel George Grono.

"Grannie" delivered many babies in the valley and was called upon for many different ailments. She could make a salve from poplar buds and roots which helped many.

"Grannie" Grono passed away in Flordia, March 8, 1927, age 78 years.

submitted by:
Cynthia (Grono) Roe

James Grono

James (Jim), brother of Emanuel Grono, with his wife Clara, and children, Cecil, Martha, Tom, and Cynthia, left Nova Scotia in 1913, because of no work. Emanuel had spoken of homesteads, reasonable for grab, in the Swan Valley. They came by train to Athabasca, as that was as far as the railroad came then.

Jim bought horses and sleigh, built a caboose on sleighs and continued on to the Swan River Valley. It took over eight days travelling over the timbered country to Lesser Slave Lake, which we followed to Kinuso. (Swan Valley) The snow was deep and Dad had to walk ahead of the horses to break trail. Sometimes the temperature dropped to 40 degrees below. There were few stopping places along the way where feed for the horses and few supplies could be purchased. Rabbit stew was a main food supplement. We arrived at Emanuel Grono's February 13, 1913. The horses were so tired they couldn't make the last 100 yards, so Dad carried me (Cynthia 3½ years) to the house where Grandma and Emanuel lived.

Within a short time of our arrival we moved over to Albert Good's homestead. (later owned by George Moore and now by Jean Quinn) Willard was born

here April 6, 1913, the first white child to be born in the valley. Dad homesteaded and built a house which we moved into in July, 1913.

The railroad didn't come through until 1914. To get supplies and mail we had to go to Grouard forty to fifty miles away by team.

James Grono fell on the ice in December, 1952 and broke his hip, he passed away in 1954 at the age of 82. He is buried in the Swan Valley cemetery.

Clara Grono retired to Parksville, B.C. where her son Willard and family are living, in 1966. She died on March 8, 1971 and is buried in Parksville, B.C.

submitted by:
Cynthia (Grono) Roe
Martha (Grono) Cline

Lemuel George Grono

Lemuel Grono was in the Swan Valley in 1918. He built the U.F.A. hall in 1918-19. He left shortly after and went to Florida. He married late in life and passed away in September 23, 1960.

submitted by:
Cynthia (Grono) Roe

The George Hagen Family

by Ralph Hagen

George Hagen was born in Rice Lake, Wisconsin, on May 28, 1885. His wife Katie was born in Price, North Dakota, December 6, 1885.

George Hagen homesteaded in the Elsworth district south west of Beaverlodge in 1919, where he broke 35 acres of land and hauled freight for a living. In 1923 he leased a hay lease on the lake not far from Kinuso. Meeting a few people from Kinuso, he got to see the Swan Valley and liked what he saw. Renting a place in the valley from Molly Thompson, we moved to Kinuso in the winter of 1923-24. I being in a not so convenient a place to go to school, and being the only one in the family who went to school from the Lillo's vicinity, stayed for awhile in town. I went to school with Tom Sloan's children during the summer at Swan Valley school. With Orville in charge we crossed the river in a boat morning and night.

I remember Tom Sloan and my father repairing an old Stanley-Jones Separator. It was an old machine, no blower and no scales. The bands on the bundles were cut by hand and carefully fed into the machine.



George Hagen family.

It had a straw conveyor which took the straw about 16 feet from the machine where it was stacked by hand.

I remember Orville giving up in disgust after trying in vain to teach Wayne and I to swim.

While at Molly Thompson's, dad heard the Harrison place was for rent. As it was a larger place and very good soil, we moved there. It was here that my brother Henry (deceased) was born, making four children in the family, myself the oldest, Eleanore my sister, two years younger, Clarence four years younger, and Henry the baby.

There was an abundance of wild fruit and my mother's cellar was well stacked with jars of fruit. For blueberries we had to go into the hills. I remember clearly a berry picking party into the hills, as many neighbours gathered, four wagons, one buggy and a democrat, plus many saddle horses. We had two days of berry picking, swimming and sing songs that lasted well into the night. The third day a storm came up making the river too high to cross. After the storm we had to cross the river in three places. John Kool took one of my father's horses and tested the water level and said "we could cross" and we did.

At this time Dad, who was interested in the lumber business took a logging contract with Feilds. Jesse Sloan was his partner of whom Dad said, "was honest and the best partner a man could have."

Dad farmed during the summer and accumulated a nice herd of cattle and pigs, but decided we were too far from a market. He then decided to move to Edmonton where he farmed and ran a sawmill for Swanson Lumber Co. at Chip Lake. He then moved back to Grande Prairie and from there back to the original homestead at Elsworth. He went into partnership with T.E. Cooke, the business going under the name of Cooke and Hagen Mills. Dad retired from work owing to poor health and moved to Gordondale, Alta. where he passed away in 1950. Mother is still living, being 93 years of age and in residence at the Swan Haven home in Grande Prairie.

I married Elsie Levett in 1936 and we have two children, a son Eric, at present working in the K-Mart store in Dawson Creek, B.C., and a daughter Marie who with her husband, Cyril Day, farms at Gordondale, Alberta. I also have three grandchildren, Lisa, Jewel, and Warren, (Marie's children). Eric at present is still single.

I have been back to Kinuso several times in the past 25 years but never had time for an extended visit, however as I retire this fall, I may get a chance yet.

Eleanore

Eleanore, the second child, was seven years old when the family moved to Kinuso, where they lived for four years. Later after the family moved to Elsworth, Eleanore married Clarence Keiver. They had three children, the first two being twins, Iris and Reginald. Iris is living in Chicago and has one daughter Jamie from her first marriage to Jimmie Allen. She is now married to Leo Zutler. Reg is married to Yvonne MacMillan and is living in Cranbrook, B.C. They have three children, one son Carl, and two

daughters Dianna and Wanda. Eleanore's third child Harold married Shirley Armstrong. They have two sons, Kevin and Steven.

Eleanore's fourth child, Halvor, from her second marriage to Hjalmar Moxness (deceased) is living in Dawson Creek, B.C. Halvor married Lynne Harris and they have one son Mark.

Clarence

Clarence, the third child was five years old when the Hagen family moved to Kinuso. He grew up in Elmsworth where the family later moved. Clarence joined the army during the second world war. After the war was over, he homesteaded in Gordondale, Alberta, where he met and married Orah Harris in 1947. They have one son, Lawrence, living in Dome Creek, B.C. and one daughter, Dawna Lee Barnes.

The youngest son Henry died in 1962. His wife and children, Gerald and Sharon live in Calgary.

Leona Hankin (Blades)

Anyone who was in Kinuso 55 years ago might remember a young school teacher named Leona Blades. In September, 1924, I came to Kinuso to teach school. I had had only one year teaching experience and had never been very far away from home before. I had sent applications to several school boards and received a number of replies. I don't really know why I chose to accept the offer from Kinuso. Perhaps, when I discovered its whereabouts on the map, I thought the North Country sounded interesting. And interesting it proved to be.

Although the schoolhouse had two rooms, only one was in use. I was somewhat dismayed at first. Here, were between 45 and 50 children in all grades from one to ten. Not only that, I was warned by a certain R.C.M.P. Officer, that I would have to be strict, as the children tended to get out of hand. Perhaps I was a bit at first, but we soon began to understand each other and they turned out to be a very good bunch of kids. Strangely enough, even after all the years, I can still remember most of them by name. I can't list them all here, but who could forget the following: the Lillos (4), Belleroses (3), 2 families of L'hirondelles, Helmers, Whitecottons, Stevensons, LaPlantes, Vandraegens, Camerons, McKinleys, Mallards, Coutereilles, also Louise Field, Harmon Scott, Freddie Campeo, Buddy Beagles, Flora Chalifoux, and Frankie Sound, who drew beautiful bucking horses. I hope I haven't forgotten anyone.

I remember the dog-sleds and the dogs being so quiet in the cloakroom. I remember the time the C.G.I.T. group spent a very rainy week, camping at the lake. We had a card club where we played five-hundred. I still have a small dish I won as first prize.

I also remember Mr. Helmer letting me ride his buckskin horse named Charlie, any day after school.

When I first arrived in Kinuso, I spent a few nights at Mrs. Beagles' place, and the remainder of that first year with Louise Field in our small house. The second year was spent, half with Mr. and Mrs. Rice and Vincent. The rest of the year, I lived with Mrs. Stephen-

son, Mrs. Whitecotton's mother and other granddaughter Ivy. Of the townspeople besides those mentioned, I recall the MacKillops at the Post Office and their dog Rusty, the Boisverts, the Walkers, the McKinleys, and many others.

My salary in 1925 was \$1100.00 per year and that was considered a fair salary for that time. I was promised a small raise if I would return for another year. However, after I had left Kinuso in the summer, I received word that the board couldn't pay it. I had been offered a position on the staff in Grande Prairie, so that was where I spent the next three years.

In the summer of 1929, I left Grande Prairie. I motored out to Edmonton with some friends from Clairmont. The drive took four days as the roads were almost impassable.

After a year spent in a small country school (enrollment about twenty), which was like a busman's holiday, I came to Thorsby. Here, I taught the senior room in a new school for three years, then married the local doctor. We have one son who is also a doctor, practising in California. My husband passed away in 1971.

When I left Kinuso 55 years ago, I was certain that I would go back some time but never did. Perhaps now that I have established contact again, I might return for a visit just to see how the town has changed since I left in 1924.

Fred and Annie Harvey

Annie was Agnes Grono's daughter. They came from Nova Scotia in 1915 and homesteaded. They left Kinuso in 1920 with Agnes and went to Florida. They have had five children over the years.

submitted by:
Cynthia (Grono)Roe

Don and Marge Haughian

I (Don), was born in 1928 in the southern part of Saskatchewan, at Herbert. My parents farmed there. I was seven years old when my parents had to relocate because of several years of drought. I can still remember the horrible dust storms. Once we went visiting and couldn't return home for two days because of the dust. Dad shipped his cattle by train. Mother and we children drove in a Model T. My brother and I had to sit in a little box in the back of the car. We had to keep our heads covered, because of the dust. When we got out of the car, the only thing that was white was the whites of our eyes. However we arrived safe and sound at St. Walburg, in northern Saskatchewan.

We saw our first good rain in St. Walburg that we had seen in years. Things were much better for us in St. Walburg, as we could raise big gardens and had lots of wild fruit, and wood for fuel.

I was 14 years old when I went to work, working in a tie camp. I was 18 when I first came to Alberta, working on ranches at Nanton.

I came to the Kinuso area in 1946, working around at logging camps. Then in 1950, I bought my first lumber truck and went hauling lumber and pulp around the Kinuso area.

Then in 1951, I moved to High Prairie, where I spent ten years hauling lumber and gravel. In 1961, I returned to Kinuso, where I bought some land and started raising cattle. I also worked for the Dept. of Highways, driving truck from 1965 - 1974.

In 1978 due to poor health and wet weather, I sold the farm and cattle and moved into Kinuso. I am married to the former Margaret Erricson, and we have six children, four are from Margaret's previous marriage.

They are all settled around the Kinuso area. We have fourteen grandchildren.

Our oldest daughter Carol, is married to Craig McLaughlin. Lois is married to Charles Prichuk. Wayne is married to Margaret Davies. Judy is married to Anton Kirtio. Marie is married to Maurice Giguere. Jim, our youngest, is at home.

Arthur and Ivy Heal

From a letter from Ivy

Arthur Heal was born March 20th, 1889, in Devon, England and came to Canada in 1913.

He served as a Constable in the Royal North-West Mounted Police Force in Canada from June 28th, 1915, to June 27th, 1918.



Ivy and Art Heal.

He then served as a Trooper, enlisting in the R.N.W.M.P., Siberian Cavalry, Canadian Overseas Expeditionary Force, on the 16th of September, 1918, and accompanied said unit to Siberia. He was returned to Canada, and discharged from the Service at Regina, Saskatchewan, on the 9th day of July, 1918, in consequence of demobilization.

He then served as a Constable in the Alberta Provincial Force, from 2nd of December 1923 to 31st

March, 1932. He was discharged in consequence of disbandment of the Force, to join the R.C.M.P. April 1st 1932, to March 31st, 1948, when he was discharged in consequence of being "pensioned".

He died, April 23rd 1963, in Victoria, B.C.

More on Arthur Heal from a paper clipping, when he retired Guard for Provincial Cash

R.C.M.P. Constable ends 29 years of Police Work

Twenty-nine years of police work in Alberta, the north country, and Siberia ended Tuesday for Const. Arthur J. Heal, 58, of the R.C.M.P.

Guard for the provincial government funds for the past 12 years, Const. Heal made his last trip to the banks with the treasury cashier Tuesday afternoon and already is looking to "a life of ease" in Victoria. He plans to leave soon with his wife and two daughters, aged 12 and 14 years.

He was born in Exeter in Devon and came to Canada in 1913. He first joined the North West Mounted Police in 1915, in an attempt to get overseas with mounted force. He was refused overseas duty. He was three years training at Regina, and then was posted to Fort Nelson, where he spent three years.

Const. Heal holds a record for dog teams in the north country, through his 8½-day return trip by dog team from Fort Nelson, 400 miles to Churchill. He made the trip in record time to bring out two companions, who had completed their turns of duty. Const. Heal used two dog teams to get to Fort Churchill, and two others on his return.

"The first two teams were worn out by the long grind," he said.

He served with the N.W.M.P. when four squadrons were sent to Siberia during the trouble between the Russians and Czechoslovakians. "Most of the fun had ended when we arrived over there," he said. "We took our horses over with us, but we didn't bring them back. I think the Russians got most of them. Maybe they used them for food."

On his return from Siberia, Const. Heal retired from the force and resumed his former trade which he learned in the old country as a butcher. He also worked as a miner and several other trades.

He joined the Alberta Provincial Police in 1923 and served with this force in the Peace River and also at the coal branch. He remained with the police after the Alberta force was taken over by the R.C.M.P. in the early 30's.

Const. Heal, said Tuesday he is sorry to leave police work, but he is looking forward to retirement. He wants time to fish, hunt and do some gardening. He handed in his police kit on Wednesday and will be succeeded by Const. Burnett. Provincial treasury officials say they "will miss Art," as he has been a most considerate and cheery person to have around.

Ivy Avis Langley (Heal), was born March 13th, 1909, in Brighton, Sussex, England, and came to Canada in 1922.

She was married to Arthur Heal, May 19th, 1931, in St. Marks Church, in High Prairie. Witnesses were: B. E. Boisvert and Vera Boisvert.

They had 2 children, Marjory Ethel Heal, born October 2nd, 1933, in Kinuso, Alta. Elveyne Avis Heal, was born July 28th, 1935, in Peace River, Alberta.

Marjory —

married K. J. Hickson, 11617 - 248 Street, Maple Ridge, B.C. They have 4 children, Brian, aged 17 years — twins, Brenda and Wayne, aged 14 years — Craig, aged 13 years.

Elveyne —

is married to Nicklaus Weber, and lives at 3662 Sunset Boulevard, North Vancouver, B.C.

Arthur served 29 years in the Force and retired to Victoria, B.C. After his death Ivy lived for 30 years in their old home, but she has now moved to Vancouver, close with her daughters and grandchildren, in 1978.

The History of

Charlie and Edie (Edith) "Helmer"

By Myrtle Steepe (Helmer)
Maple Ridge, B.C.

Charles (Charlie) Helmer moved to Kinuso, on Aug. 18th, 1922, with his wife, Edith (Edie), and their three children, Edward, Roy, and Myrtle.

Charlie Helmer took over the job of section-foreman on the railroad. For some years the family lived in the "old station" where two more children were added to the family — Ada, and George.

In 1927, Charlie passed away after having an operation in Edmonton.



August 1926. Edith Helmer family, also Bobby and Mildred Lyness.

Edie, continued living in Kinuso where all the children attended school and participated in the popular sports of the community. The three boys played hockey and baseball, while Myrtle and Ada played softball.



Charles Helmer, Myrtle, Vera and Ben Boisvert.

During World War II, Edward and Roy joined the Forces and in 1941, Edward was killed in a plane crash out of Carberry, Man.

Edith married James McDonald, and moved to Kelowna, B.C. where she passed away in 1968.

Roy — at the present time, Roy, who married Frances Engebretson, is now retired and living in Slave Lake.

Myrtle — is Mrs. Charles Steepe, and lives in Hane, B.C.

Ada — is now Mrs. Vanderberg, and is teaching kindergarten in Ponoka, Alta.

George — married Dorothy Piper, and is residing at Hay River, N.W.T.

* * * * *

This is a story written about George Helmer by John Warren Journal Staff Writer.

George Helmer didn't have a cake or a party with his family, to celebrate his 38th birthday, Thursday.

As a matter of fact, for the second straight day he didn't have anything to eat, as he and two companions camped on the shore of frozen Charlotte Lake, trying to forget how much they wanted a meal . . . and a cigarette.

The tail of the Cessna 180, Helmer had flown to the fishing site on the Alberta North-West Territories border remained jutting up through the ice to remind them where their supplies had been, under 10 feet of water, for the past 4½ days.

NO GAME

Tuesday they had finished off their last three sausages and chunks of bread. The six snares they had set for rabbits had yielded nothing, and attempts to hook or spear fish had been equally futile.

In Edmonton after being rescued Thursday afternoon, George gave his own account of what had happened.

"We had made one trip from Fort Smith Saturday afternoon, and had dropped a tent, heater, axe, saw,

and enough food for two days. We tested the ice and it seemed solid. On the second trip we landed and I shut off the motor before heading into shore. I stopped the aircraft a few feet from shore. There was hardly any sound. It just started to go down. I guess we had about 30 seconds to get out.

"The three of us (Harry Briere and Bernard Talpe) got a fire going, set up the tent, and then cut poles to try to hold the wings of the Plane above the ice. They did hold the wings above water until Wednesday afternoon when the weight of the snow made them sink.

"Another pole under the tail held it up until I left. We got back to our little camp, and had one big robe for the three of us. We cut up the cardboard heater box for a groundsheet. Two slept while one of us watched the fire.

"Sunday I shovelled a message in the snow — No Injuries — All supplies in plane — Food for two days. The letters were about six foot high. It started snowing about 10 a.m. and cut the visibility right down. It cleared a bit about 3 in the afternoon, and a Cessna 180 went over, but missed us. It went over again at 4:30, and spotted us this time.

"When we knew we had been spotted, we moved our camp into some shelter and stayed there Sunday night. Monday morning we had one pound of tea, two tins of sausage and a loaf of bread left. We made a fish hook out of a nail, and used a bit of red wool from a sweater for bait, but we didn't even get a bite. It snowed all day but we still managed to mark out a runway with spruce boughs. We tried to fish some more but had no luck. I guess the fish just weren't hungry. Tuesday morning we finished off the food, one sausage and a piece of bread. I shovelled out another sign in the ice — NO FOOD. That day we made a gaff hook and a spear. We built a sort of tent over a hole; we chopped into the ice to try and see some fish, but there weren't any."

NOT WORRIED

"We were all getting a bit hungry, and we were running out of cigarettes. That's as bad as having no food. Tuesday afternoon we made six small snares from the aerial on the aircraft. There were no rabbits moving around in the storm though. Actually we weren't worried because we knew as soon as the weather cleared they'd get to us or drop supplies but we were all getting weak and a bit sick. Wednesday we looked at the snares, but there were no rabbits in them. Then the wings started to sink with the weight of the snow and slush on them. We had tried to shovel this off but we couldn't get it all."

MEN SICK

"A windbreak made of spruce boughs helped keep the drifting snow from the tail — the only part of the plane left above water. It was blowing and snowing all day." George referred to a note in his log book. It said simply, "Can't catch a rabbit. Sure hungry and all kinds of sick." Thursday the log entry was a terse "MY BIRTHDAY". We changed the runway because water seeping through cracks in the ice had formed slush. It was clearing a bit and we expected a

plane soon."

RETURNING SATURDAY

"At 2 p.m., we found a rabbit in a snare, and everybody cheered up a bit. We just started to cook it when the helicopter arrived. It left supplies for Bernard and Harry and took me back to Fort Smith. YOU MIGHT HAVE GUESSED IT. THE PILOT DIDN'T SMOKE. I ate three meals on the plane from Fort Smith to Edmonton. I guess it was a bit too much because I feel sick to-day.

"I won't be flying up there until tomorrow."

Newell Holcomb.

Newell S. Holcomb and his wife Mable came to Swan Valley about the year 1921, with their three children Vera, Beatrice and Raymond. He filed on a homestead, the N.E. ¼, section 6 Twsp. 72, R. 9 west-5 and lived in the district for about three years. The children went to the valley school. Vera is now Vera Lewis. Beatrice is Beatrice Finley, and Raymond has passed away.

Bert Holgate

William Herbert Holgate, Bert, as he was known best by all, was born in Norman, Minnesota, April 6, 1901. He came to Canada with his family, Mr. and Mrs. John Holgate and his four brothers and three sisters. His brothers were Ted, Reg, Leslie and Harold. His sisters were Isobel, Gladys and Harriet, (Harold's twin).

Bert was ten years old when he moved to the Mayerton district near Kitscoty, Alberta. There he went to school.



Bert and Evelyn Holgate (Wedding Picture).

He married Evelyn Churchill, March 16, 1926. They lived in Paradise Valley area until 1939, when they moved to Kinuso. There he farmed and worked for the Department of Highways. In later years they

lived in the town of Kinuso when Evelyn's health wasn't too good.



Holgate children: Gordon, Doran, Georgina, Mervin and Dortha.

They had five children, Marvin is now in the Red Deer Home. Georgina is at Cache Creek, B.C. She is married to Roy Onstine, formerly of Kinuso and they operate a motel at Cache Creek. Gordan is at Surrey, B.C. Doran is in Edmonton. Dorothy was Doran's twin and passed away at the age of three.

Bert served with the Armed Forces a short while but due to a disability was discharged in 1942. Following a lengthy illness, Bert passed away January 24, 1969. Evelyn, his wife pre-deceased him in March, 1966 and Dorothy, his daughter, in 1942.

James Holliston

Mr. and Mrs. James Holliston arrived in the Kinuso area in 1933, along with their daughter Mrs. Ren Stevenson. They settled on a homestead in the Faust area. Mr. Holliston was already crippled with arthritis and unable to work, he later suffered a stroke and was completely bed ridden.

They moved to Kinuso in 1936, and lived in the McDonald house. Mrs. Holliston took in boarders, raised a big garden and "made do".

Following the death of their only son Kenneth in a car accident in 1943 a small insurance made it possible for them to build their own little house. Mr.

Holliston passed away in 1946 at the age of 70 years, a few months after they moved into their own home.

Mrs. Holliston remained in her home until 1949, then moved to Edmonton where she made her home between her sister's and her grandchildren, Lloyd and Ruth Stevenson. She later moved to Victoria and lived with her daughter where she passed away in 1966 at the age of 85 years.

Mr. and Mrs. Holliston had four children, three daughters and one son. Mrs. Ren Stevenson (Phyllis) who passed away in 1949, Mrs. Bob (Dorothy) Smale who lives in Victoria B.C. Mrs. Ron Field (Lillian who lives in Courtenay B.C. and Kenneth Holliston who was killed in an auto accident in 1943, at the age of 29 years.

Harry Hrynyshyn Family

Harry immigrated to Redwater, Alberta from Poland in 1928. He came from the same village in Poland as the Lysko's and the families knew each other very well.



Harry Hrynyshyn.

Harry worked for one dollar a day during harvest time, if work was available and could be found. He also worked for the railroad at 20¢ per hour during the depression.

Mary came to Canada and to Kinuso with her mother on Aug. 6, 1930 to join John Lysko who was already in Kinuso.

Harry bought $\frac{1}{4}$ section of land and farmed it for a number of years. In the winter of 1963-64 the house on the farm burnt down. The Hrynyshyn's lost everything in the fire. Harry rebuilt a new house by himself and lived on the farm until retiring in 1966. When he

retired, Harry moved the new house into town. He lived there until passing away in Oct. 15th, 1976.

Mary still lives in town. She is a active member in the Senior Citizens. At the age of 72, she keeps busy by growing beautiful flowers and a lovely garden. She also does many different types of handicrafts.

Harry and Mary had two daughters Katherine and Anne.

Huculak Family

The afternoon of June 3, 1951 saw Adolph, Mary and Brian Huculak leave for Kinuso from Skaro, Alberta. We had a 1937 Ford pulling a small trailer accompanied by Dad (Joseph) Huculak, brother Henry and cousin John. They drove a Diamond T truck hauling a milk cow and precious belongings. We spent the first night fifteen miles from Skaro across the river at Radway because the second truck hauling a garage shell broke an axle. We came down the Prichuk Hill June 5, after spending two nights on the road.

Adolph bought a quart of milk from McLaughlin's Dairy on the way to Harry McRee's. Mrs. McRee gave us all dinner and she told me she thought Brian wouldn't live as he was so skinny. However, the cow we brought with us soon mended that problem. Terry McRee took their D6 caterpillar to fill in the small ravine north of our land. As you all know we located directly across from Shorty (Joe) and Anne McRee.

Terry had to clear a spot large enough to put our small trailer on. If we hadn't had such fantastic neighbours we never would have survived. Joe gave us a piece of land big enough to plant our first garden in Kinuso on June 15, 1951. We never had garden failure that year or since. Our total cash on hand was two dollars and fifty cents.

Four children were born to us between 1952 and 1957; Ione, Marian, Patricia and David. Adolph's brothers Clarence, Bernie and Alfred spent many summers with us after they purchased Bugar Lind's property. Joseph and Annie Huculak bought Finnie Hill's property just south of Kinuso in 1957. After several years of farming, the Swan River flooding his farmstead three different times, Joe changed his mind about retiring on that beautiful location. He sold out in 1964 and is now living in Armstrong, B.C. McRees did all the land clearing for us and we picked many roots but we were rewarded with a good living.

January 1959 we moved to Jousard to work on the mission farm and as residential nurse. In 1962 we built the house we live in now. Daniel was born that summer and Kathryn the next spring.

Adolph has looked after Shell's water plant since March 1966 and Mary has worked for National Health and Welfare since 1965. We are fortunate that our children live around us and have blessed us with eight grandchildren.

Kinuso has been very good to us, providing us with a good living, good neighbours, and good health—what more is there to life?

Brian Huculak Family

I (Hermie VanDerMark) met Brian in September

of 1969. We were married on August 14, 1971. We moved directly to Grande Cache, Alta. (a beautiful town) where Brian worked on surface at McIntire Porcupine coal mines.



Brian, Hermie, Thierry and Brianna Huculak.

It was there on the 2nd of July 1972 that our son Thierry was born. After a couple of years, work got kind of slow so in 1973 we packed up and moved to Whitecourt, Alta. There Brian worked for Halliburton Oilfield Services. A year later on August 11th 1974 our daughter Brianna appeared to complicate our next move. She was only three days old when we started the move to Calgary. Brian had decided to go to school and become a heavy duty diesel mechanic. The next nine months were spent going to S.A.I.T. When school was finished in June 1975 we moved again, this time to Westlock, Alta. where Brian finished off his apprenticeship with Westlock Farm Equipment. He got his ticket, and at the end of June 1977 we took the big step back to the farm here in Kinuso. Brian now farms part time and is back with Halliburton in Slave Lake, the rest of the time.

We are taking over the farming operation with the help of Mom and Dad VanDerMark.

Doreen (Kusch) Hunt

I was born on May 27, 1931, in Grandma Bradford's house in Kinuso. My parents Doris and Charlie lived not far from Lesser Slave Lake. In 1935 the lake flooded, creating a disaster for my parents. All the hayfields, the garden and strawberry patch were covered in water, everything that was a source of income for them.

Mom opened her cellar door, the jars were floating all over, it had very little more to go, to be right in the house. The slough close by the house was as full as it could get without spreading elsewhere. Mom and Dad decided we had to move as fast as we could. They loaded a high-wheeled wagon with as many belongings as it could hold.

Mom and I headed for Mose Caribou's place,

which was vacant. The trail we went through was something else, the ground was so soaked with water it made our wagon trail through the bush very tricky. A wheel would drop down in a hole, and we just had to hope we wouldn't tip over and that the horses could pull us through. As far as I can remember we made it without having to reload. This trip must have been about four or five miles.

In later years Dad built a log house which is still standing and occupied.

During my school years I stayed with Grandma Bradford part time. In this I was luckier than a lot of students, especially in the winter months when it was very cold. Some weekends a few of my girl friends would come out to the farm for a change from town life. Instead of tobogganing or skating, we would harness a horse, hook up a cow hide and ride on this. You would usually end up with a sore bottom from riding over the bumps.

During some weekends in town a group of us would get together and clean the snow off a slough by town, this was our skating rink. We would have a large bonfire going and some would slide down the slough bank or skate on the ice.

Our school didn't have the modern conveniences they have today. In summer it was comfortable until a heat wave in June. The hot sun would beam in our west windows. We had blinds but the occasional one wouldn't work too well, you could pull it down and, zip, up it would go. In the winter we had a barrel heater in the centre of our room. On the very cold days it didn't get warmed up until noon. Our ink wells were frozen so the bottles were set on the edge of the heater to thaw out. Mr. Pat O'Shea was our janitor for awhile. Our water fountains in our cloak room where we hung our coats, and put our books and lunch pails sometimes froze in the bitter weather. We made paper cups out of our scribbles to drink out of. Some of the students would arrive with cheeks, nose and finger tips frozen, or badly chilled.



In 1948 I met Geoge Hunt, son of Harry and Glenie. We were married in Kinuso in April of 1950.

Mom and Dad carted the food into Kinuso from

the farm six miles by team and wagon. The roads were very poor for cars especially at spring break-up when it rained. Roads were not graded or gravelled yet. George was born January 29, 1921 in his parents' two story log house. He went to school in Swan Valley travelling on foot or by horseback. It was a five mile journey one way. Lunch was packed in a lard pail since there was no such thing as a thermos or lunch kit then. On cold days lunches were frozen. Lunches were shared with brothers and sisters. In 1937-38 George worked part time for the Highways Department, driving a four horse fresno to help pay off land taxes. Wages were nine dollars a day for man and four horses.

Plowing started in spring as soon as weather permitted. This was done by horse power, walking behind the plow. You had to rest your horses at noon and feed them in the afternoon so they would have enough energy to work. This was the method used until 1941 when a steel-wheeled tractor was bought. This was a pleasant change from the horses except it was rather rough to sit on. At harvest time you worked from daylight until dark threshing. The bundles were hauled into the threshing machine by team and wagon. There was the odd runaway as the horses were not used to the noise of the machine. Not everyone on the farms had a threshing machine so custom work was worked in somehow in the fall.

For summer vacation a group of us would get a grub steak (as we called it), fill up the pack boxes on the horses, saddle up the riding ponies and head for Grizzly Mountain. There we would pick huckleberries and go fishing. Home looked great especially when you were caught in a downpour and got soaked. The only method we had to dry our clothes was over the campfire and during a rain this was impossible. These trips were enjoyed by all.

In July 1951 our first child was born, a son whom we called Arthur. Arthur had his education in Knuso, High Prairie, Fairview, Olds and Red Deer, Alberta. He married Alice Schafer from Unity, Saskatchewan in December 1978. They now reside in Kinuso for the time being. Arthur had been hauling water for seismic.

Our first daughter, Susan was born in August 1954. Susan received her education in Kinuso. Susan married Jack Moody (from Woking, Alberta) in July 1972. They have one son and two daughters.

Our second daughter Ethel was born in September 1957 and Ethel had her education in Kinuso and Slave Lake. Ethel married in 1974 George Brightwell from Bengough, Saskatchewan. They have two daughters.

Our third daughter Gail was born in 1964 January and is going to school in Kinuso.

All of our family now reside in Kinuso since their husbands are working for seismic.

At the present time my husband, Gail and I are residing on the farm enjoying some of the modern conveniences of country life today. Rubber tired tractors, combines for threshing, round bales of hay for cattle feed, you hardly need to lift anything manually any more, thanks to our great inventors.

Jean Marie Hunt

Born November 2, 1952, at High Prairie Hospital to Norman and Julia Hunt of Kinuso, Alberta.

Attended Kinuso School grades 1 - 12. Graduated June 1970.

Attended the Northern Institute of Technology — Secretarial Sciences Program in Edmonton from September 1970 — May 1972.

Married Kenneth Edward Sheldon, son of Stan Sheldon and Gladys Bajer, December 2, 1972.

First child, Keith Edward Sheldon, born November 1, 1977 at the Slave Lake General Hospital.

John & Alice Hunt

John was born in 1916 son of Harry and Glennie Hunt. John left for overseas in 1942; he was there for three years. He met Alice Robinson in England when on a visit from Italy. They were married in England one year later. John arrived home early in 1945. Alice followed a few months later. They had three sons, David, Chris, and Philp. Alice passed away in 1974. John passed away in 1977.



John and Alice Hunt (standing) with friends in England.

The Marvin Hunt Family

Marvin was born April 28th, 1931, youngest son of Glennie and Harry Hunt, at Kinuso. He was raised on a farm near Kinuso and in 1953 he married Doris Roe, eldest daughter of Ernest and Louise Roe. Doris was born July 2nd, 1935 in a log cabin on a homestead west of Kinuso. Both Marvin and I took our schooling in Kinuso. Marvin did attend the Valley school until Grade 5 when they moved the students to the Kinuso school. I spent one year in Flint, Michigan with my oldest brother, Curly and his wife Eleanor where I attended a business college.

In 1957, Marvin bought the old Dykeman place from Jimmy Onstines boys and we have lived here since that time. We have six children, 3 boys and 3 girls. They were all born in the High Prairie Hospital and took their schooling in Kinuso. Blair and Bruce married sisters, Doreen and Rose Moody from Woking, Alta. Blair and Doreen live in Swan Valley and work in Zama City for Texaco Canada. Bruce and Rose also live in the Valley and Bruce has a seismic rig. Diane lives and works in High Prairie and is engaged to marry Dale Nelson of High Prairie. Patti, Darcy and Barbara are still at home.

Norman and Julia Hunt

My husband, Norman Hunt, born in 1923 and raised in Swan Valley, is the third eldest son of Harry and Glennie Hunt. I, Julia Cargan, was born in 1924 in Northern Ireland. In 1929 my parents emigrated to Canada, locating on a farm at Chipman, Alberta. I graduated from Edmonton Normal School in the class of '42-'43 and came to this community as a teacher in the rural Valley School. The years 1943 to 1947 were spent in teaching in the Valley and in Kinuso School.



Norman and Julie Hunt and family.

Here I met my husband and we were married in 1946 and have lived in the Valley on Norman's father's farm. He and his older brother George are at present occupied in farming this same land after purchasing it jointly from their father before his death in 1975. During the 1950's Norman worked for some time in the pulpwood and lumber business in addition to helping in the running of the farm. At that time the farm was operated on a three way partnership comprised of Norman, his brother George and their father David Hunt. They now run a moderate cow calf operation. In 1975 we moved our family to our present home on a quarter west of the original home site.

We raised thirteen children, four of whom are still at home and attending school: Douglas, born in 1967; Noreen, born in 1965; Kevin born in 1963, and Catherine, born in 1962.

Five of the children have married. Theresa, (born 1947) with her husband, Rene Leblanc, and their two daughters, Michelle and Andrea reside in Edmonton. Patrick (born in 1949) and his wife Karen (Fiddler) with their two sons, Clint and Mathew reside in

Dawson Creek, B.C. Ronald (born in 1954) and his wife Irma (Sloan) with their children, Jamie and Terry reside in Ontario as do Brian (born in 1950) and his wife Linda (Robinson). Jean (born 1952) and her husband Kenneth Sheldon, with their son Keith

reside in Kinuso.

The remaining four children are employed away from home: Thomas born in 1961, Kenneth born in 1955 and Clifford born in 1957. Shirley our third eldest daughter was born in 1959.

I left the teaching profession during the years spent raising the children but now have taken on substitute teaching for the School Division.

Daniel Jacknife

As told by Daniel Jacknife

Daniel Jacknife was born to Joseph and Veronica (Fanty) on March 1, 1906 in Great Falls, Montana. Daniel was one of six children. The oldest boys Pete and Johnny were born in Great Falls, Helen and Mary-Jane were born in Buffalo Lake, Alberta. His parents moved back to Great Falls where Daniel was born. In 1912, they moved back to Alberta and their last daughter Melanie was born in Baptiste Lake.



Dan Calliou and Daniel Jacknife.

In 1914, Daniel's parents moved to Slave Lake, they came by pack horses. Daniel helped his father to make a log house. They skidded logs by horses and for the roof and floor they used dirt. For the floor, clay was used and water was thrown on top to settle the dust. They also made a clay fireplace to cook on. They stayed in Slave Lake for two years, then moved around to Grouard, Jouvassard, Driftpile and Sucker

Creek.

During this time Daniel helped his father with the hunting and trapping. They went hunting moose 60 miles south of Swan Hills, as moose at that time were scarce. They sold their furs to Charlie Walker in Grouard, Joe Turner at Jouvassard and to Edward Geddy at Enilda. He remembers trading two beaver pelts for one scoop (cup) of tea. Daniel worked for the railroad at Sucker Creek, hauling ties by horse teams.

In 1930, Daniel began homesteading in Sucker Creek. He had a few cattle and horses. In the winter time he would do some trapping by dog teams. At that time many people had dog teams. Daniel also worked for MacRae's, Brassards and Trembley's logging camps.



Daniel and Margaret Jacknife — February, 1946.

On June 22, 1943 Daniel married Margaret, daughter of Julien and Louise Belcourt. Margaret was born in Jouvassard on November 20, 1921. She is one of eleven children. Margaret went to school in Jouvassard for five years. After she left school she did some house keeping for the police in High Prairie, some people in Jouvassard and worked in the hospital in High Prairie.

After Daniel and Margaret were married, they made their home on his homestead. They stayed there for 10 years and moved to Kinuso where Daniel worked for Imperial Lumber. He worked here for 4 years and then moved back to Jouvassard. In 1958, he again moved to Kinuso and worked as a fork lift operator for Imperial Lumber. He worked there for 10 years until the mill closed down.

After this shut down Daniel worked at Enilda for Wagner Lumber for 3 years and then retired in 1971. During this time Margaret did house keeping for Jean Jordon for 15 years in Kinuso.

In 1978, Daniel and Margaret moved with their adopted daughters Peggy and Susan to Slave Lake, where they presently reside.



Margaret Jackknife with Daniel's first car.

Harold and Etta Jackson

(Children — James, Roy, and Marlene)

(Aylmer and Aggie Jackson) Harold's Parents

Kinuso, "land of wood and water." This was Jack Churchill's favorite by word. We came to look in July, 1953. Stopped at Bill Boisvert's cabins at Slave Lake where he demonstrated filleting fish while "No-see-um" season was at its height. Besides doing a masterful job, Bill Boisvert decorated himself with fish blood, fish slime, and fish scales. Our coffee was a magnificent purple . . . almost like a bad dream.

Through Mrs. Anton Kirtio Sr., we met Mr. and Mrs. Charles Wood, made an agreement and returned to Forestburg, Alberta; loaded our belongings on two freight cars, put our oldest son James in charge of the livestock and drove to Edmonton where we met the train. We watered our cattle, reloaded them on the cars and drove on to Kinuso. We spent the night in the old hotel operated by Mary Armitage. The next day we spent most of the day trying to get someone to haul our livestock four miles to the Wood farm, although at the time two truckers lived in town, but neither would oblige us. Only by the goodness of heart of Frank Sound who, although busy haying, saw we needed help and volunteered both his truck and driver. With the help of his brother August Sound, we managed to unload and haul our belongings home. We were given an invitation to supper by Norman Messenger, but declined. We slept on the floor the first night; Marlene, then 2½ years old wanted to go

home. A mouse had gotten between the ceiling paper and the upstairs floor and raced madly about all night.

When the rain fell, the mud reached the constituency of "slurry" used by the forestry planes to combat fires in the woods. When the rain continued, the Swan River overflowed its banks and cut off the traffic, ruined the meadow hay by leaving sand and silt behind on the grass which never washed off that year, also made cultivated land a bog, but there was always "plenty of wood and water."

My parents, both passed on and were buried in the local cemetery. Both boys finished school in Kinuso, and Marlene in Valleyview.



Harold Jackson family.

When we came to Kinuso it was similar to a boom town, but the boom was soon over. Luckily after the planer mill and mink ranchers moved out, they left the "farmers" to support the town.

The Jordans



Fannie and Owen Jordon.

Owen Jordan — from Spiritwood, Sask., spent the winter of 1947-48, hauling lumber from Widewater to Kinuso. Owen's wife Fannie, and son Bob, arrived in March of 1948 from Spiritwood, to approve the prospect of purchasing the Wilton garage, "the one with the map on the front," run by Harry and Don. The move to Kinuso was made that year.

Fannie, Owen, and Bob arrived on June 15th with Bob's wife, Jean, following on July 1st. Equipment and household effects were shipped from Spiritwood by boxcar. The Wilton garage, renamed "Swan Valley Service," has been in operation since that time.



IR FIRST GARAGE KINUSO SASK

Owen and Bob Jordan's Garage — 1948.

The Jordan partnership took over the bulk oil agency from Harvey Cline in 1950. In June 1956, Owen and Fannie moved to Slave Lake to operate a bulk oil agency there, and Bob took over their interests in Kinuso.

Owen and Fannie made a number of moves in the following years — operating a motel at Valleyview, for a short time, thence to High Level to a homestead "for the quiet life."

They purchased a store-motel-garage combination in High Level, and then built a hotel complex there. They retired to Victoria in the fall of 1969, where Fannie passed away in 1972, and Owen in 1974. Both are interred in the Swan Valley cemetery.

Bob has continued to operate the garage, and the bulk oil agency. Jean has taught for a number of years in the local school.

The family have built a house on a $\frac{3}{4}$ section of land, south of Prichuk Hill, and moved out of town in the fall of 1978.

Bob and Jean have five children, a daughter Nancy, and four sons, Kenneth, married to Cindy Sloan, Russel, Donald, and David.

Steve Karpa

Steve Karpa born February 18, 1921 came to Canada with his mother two brothers and sister to join his father John Karpa, who had come to Canada a few years earlier and settled in the Gilwood area, (High Prairie). Steve, like hundreds of other young children of immigrant parents who came to Canada during the depression years, experienced the depression and the hard work to open up the land. Steve didn't mind the grubbing of stumps but detested the rock picking.



Steve Karpa family.

After leaving school, Steve and his brother Bill decided to spread their wings and go to work away from home to earn some money, which they did.

Not too many years later they moved to Faust, where Steve bought the John Lapard quarter and later on another half section of land, (Billy L'Hirondell's quarter). Bill followed Steve and also bought land adjoining Steves.

In 1954 Steve married a local farm girl, Mary Kirtio and has resided in Kinuso ever since. Mary is now the postmistress of Kinuso. Mary, born and raised in Kinuso, is well known by all; her younger years (teen age) were almost lived on the ball diamond. Mary would set the clock ahead one hour or so every after school, so that the cows could be milked earlier, so brother Antone and her could get to ball practise earlier.

Mary loves dancing and like her brother plays several musical instruments, she is also community minded and is a very active member of the Agriculture Society.

Steve and Mary have six children:

1. John, the eldest born in 1955, is a truck driver, and owner of a gravel truck. After completing his grade twelve, John, became employed by his uncle Anton and has been working with his uncle since. John has contributed many hours of work towards the new complex.

2. Pelagia, born in 1957, is the second child, completed her grade eleven in Kinuso, graduated from grade twelve in High Prairie, and came back home to Kinuso, and began working at the school with the pre-school and play school children. Pelagia has now completed three years as Instructor of the pre-school program as well as the play school.

3. Margaret, born in 1958, was born in the nursing station in Kinuso, with Bertha Putz as the only attendant. (Miss Putz was the Municipal Nurse in Kinuso at that time). Margaret, like her sister graduated from grade twelve in High Prairie. Margaret and Pelagia

graduated together. Margaret also began working at the Kinuso school upon her return. Margaret's first year of employment was as staff-aide for grade six and the second term became staff-aide for the Remedial reading class, working with Mrs. Sue McElroy.

On August 5th, 1978, Margaret married Brian Bellerive of Slave Lake, Alberta. Margaret and Brian have made their home in Slave Lake.

4. Antone, born in 1961, has completed his grade twelve in Kinuso and is furthering his education by several correspondence courses from the U.S.A. as well as Alberta Correspondence School. Antone, better known as Tony, likes to try working at different jobs. He has been doing cat work (loading gravel trucks). He was one of the first young people who started working with the Agriculture Society, first as volunteer work then as paid labourer. Tony saw the first bit of work begun on the "New Complex" and helped construct the building until its present time (curling season). Tony is now employed by Bill Stern, our local Painter and Decorator.

5. William, the fifth, born in 1962, is completing his grade eleven in Kinuso, and as all the other students in the same grade, he is undecided as to where he will complete his grade twelve, or what he will do.

6. Fredrick, the last, a Centennial baby born in 1967, is in grade six and too young to know what he will do, but is very interested in farming and motors.

Mary (Churchill) Kearns

submitted by Mary Kearns

I came to Kinuso in 1930 with my parents. There I grew up and took most of my schooling.

In 1942, I left Kinuso and in 1943, I joined the Air Force where I stayed until 1946. I then moved to Toronto and married in 1947. I had three children.

Laura, our first daughter; age 25. David: age 22
Jane: age 14.

Anton Kirtio Sr.

by daughter Mary

Anton Kirtio Sr., was born Sept. 4, 1899, and came to Canada from Poland in the spring of 1928. His first stop in Canada was Bruderheim, Alta., where he was to work for a Mr. Henwick. After arriving in Bruderheim, he was informed that he was not needed, as another immigrant had previously been hired.

Mr. Kirtio, not being able to speak English, had no money, had only a few clothes in a pack sack, and a loaf of bread from the old country and no where to go, saw a very bleak future. However, being very determined, he began walking the roads to find employment.

After some long walking, the pack sack got very heavy and while needing all his clothes, he decided to remove the loaf of bread from the sack, which he did, and kissing the bread, placed the loaf of bread on a fence post for the birds to eat and continued his walking. Soon afterwards, he met a Jewish man who needed someone to unload a carload of grain, and Anton was hired, however, after the grain was

unloaded, there was no more work left for him to do, so after collecting his pay, he decided to come to Kinuso to join John Lysko, whom he knew from the old country, and John was in Kinuso already.

After arriving in Kinuso, he became employed by Mose Caribou, whom he worked for, for a year. While working for Mose, he also worked for Mr. Charles Kusch, Mr. Olsen, and several others.

While working for Mose, Mose advised him to apply for a homestead, which he did. This homestead was that of Tom Norwest at one time. There was hardly enough land cleared on this homestead for a garden, and only a log shack, which had holes between the logs and a sod roof.

For a year's wages from Mose, he got some old machinery, a team of horses, a cow, a sow pig, and 24 chickens; by now he had thought that he had found a gold mine, so he proceeded to clear his own land when he wasn't working for others. He also got a milk cow from Mr. Kusch for exchange of some work. Now, with two cows, etc., he was ready for his wife and two children to come over from Poland.

By the time his wife Pelagia, son John, and daughter Katharine arrived, Anton had already had all his gardening off and his potatoes in a pit. Mrs. Kirtio and the children arrived in the fall of 1929. John was then 8 years old, and Katharine was 7 years old.

Mrs. Kirtio, in order to join her husband in Canada, had to sell all of her land in Poland to pay for the transportation of her and her children, and had arrived in Kinuso with only \$40.00 cash, and really the only cash to be had.



Mr. and Mrs. Anton Kirtio, Mary and Anton.

The Kirtio's then immediately began repairing the old shack. With lumber bought from Mr. C. R. Fields, and rubber-oid from Mr. H. W. Walker, the sod roof was soon off. However, the cracks between the logs were still there, so Mrs. Kirtio, digging out a small dugout by hand, and chopping up some straw and mixing it with dirt and water (in the dugout) made mud to muddy the shack. After the cracks were all plastered with this mud, it was left to dry and then to be white washed with lime and this was to be her "new Canadian home." However, there was no money left for lime, but, as Mrs. Kirtio was raised in Newburgh, N.Y., until she was 14 yrs. old, she knew the English language, and so she proceeded to town on foot to ask Mr. Walker for a charge account. Mr. Walker, being the kind warm hearted merchant, not only gave her the lime on credit, but also groceries. Being so happy with her accomplishment, she took her lime and some groceries, tied them to the front of herself, and then had Mr. Walker place a 100 lbs. of flour on her back and she proceeded home.

After three years in Canada, the Kirtio's had enough land cleared on their homestead to warrant a title and citizenship papers, but due to the law, they had to wait for 5 years before becoming Canadian citizens. Within these same three years, while working for Mose and others, and himself, Mr. Kirtio also grubbed 40 acres of land on the Elmer Churchill farm, now owned by Mr. Teichroeb. It was then that he was named the "Kinuso Bulldozer."

Mr. Kirtio didn't get much rest the first years in Kinuso, because if he worked out all day, he then would grub and burn brush at night and grub again before he'd go to work for someone else in the mornings. His hay for his horses and cows was cut by hand with a scythe; this hay was cut in places that it only could be cut by hand, raking of this hay was also done by hand.

The first years of farming was all done by hand. The sowing of the crop was done by broadcasting, a hay mower with a platform built on, was used to cut the grain with. While Mr. Kirtio cut the grain, Mrs. Kirtio walked behind picking off the grain from the platform, and making grain twine twists. (This was done by taking a handful of the cut grain, heads to one end, and making a rope). Then the bundles of grain were tied up and stacked. Later the grain was hauled and stacked near a granary, where later it was threshed by hand with a hand flay.

Later on as more progress was made and more land became open, equipment of the neighbors was used, in exchange for manual labour from the Kirtio's.

The Kirtio's picked berries for home canning, and also for sale. Eggs, geese, and hogs were sold in the earlier days; thus building up their stock. Hogs were killed for their own use. This meat was processed by hand into garlic sausage, liver sausage, smoked hams, and bacon. Wild meat which was obtained in exchange for milk, butter, etc., was all canned, along with canning of fish. Everyone worked together in all these tasks, and this continued on until just the last few years of their living on the farm.

Going back some years now, back to 1930, when

their third child Mary, was born. Mr. Kirtio was away from home working. Only Mrs. Kirtio and the two children John and Katharine, were home. John was sent to get Mrs. Harry McRee to come and stay with Mrs. Kirtio and help out; however, by the time help was gotten, Mary was already born, and Mrs. Sowan, mother of Mrs. Maggie Davis, had already had the baby wrapped and taken care of. It was very hard to communicate as Mrs. Sowan did not understand Ukrainian or English at the time.

In 1936, when Anton Jr. was born, there was another problem. The trail that was used for a road had to have repairs done to it every time it rained. An axe and saw were always carried in the wagon, as you'd have to cut cord wood and place it across the road before you could drive through. Many times the wagon was left half mile from the house. You'd load up the groceries etc. on the horses, leave the wagon and ride the horse back home. The day that Anton Jr. was born, Mr. Kirtio went into town to get the nurse. Mrs. Bernice Wood, a neighbor, was looking after Mrs. Kirtio and by the time Mr. Kirtio got Miss Black, the nurse, through the mud holes and to the house, Miss Black was covered with mud and Anton Jr. had already been born. He weighed 11 lbs. 14 oz.

Mrs. Kirtio's mother, Katharine Cizman, arrived in Kinuso in June 1937. She also came from Poland. Mrs. Cizman was a great gardner and shortly after her arrival, she moved to town to live, and lived on a 3 lot parcel of land which is where the Senior Citizens houses are now. She planted strawberries, and all garden produce which she sold, to earn her living. She also helped on the farm with milking, gardening, etc. Mrs. Cizman passed away on June 10, 1964, at the age of 85 yrs.

The Kirtio's continued on the farm, building up their herd, and purchasing more land. The homestead was cleared to 120 acres, and all the clearing was done by hand, clearing on the other quarters was done by cats.

In 1970, Mr. and Mr. Kirtio Sr. celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary. A surprise celebration was held in the Legion Hall. Neither Mr. nor Mrs. Kirtio knew about this, celebration. This was a surprise put on by their children.

In 1971, Mr. Kirtio had the misfortune of getting run over by a tractor on the farm. His accident was a very severe one and he spent 3½ months in the hospital. Both legs were broken, but he got around on crutches and then with a cane. They moved to town in the fall of 1971. Mr. Kirtio passed away Dec. 10, 1973. Mrs. Kirtio, now 79 years. old, lives alone in town. She still plants a large garden on the old home place, where their youngest son Anton, and his family now reside. Children of the Senior Kirtio's are:

1. JOHN KIRTIO

John was born Jan. 4, 1921, and came from Poland. He served in the army, was a railroader, and postmaster of Kinuso. John was very ambitious, sports minded, and a community worker. John and wife Dorothy had three children, Sandra, Peggy, and Stewart, also 4 grandchildren. John had the misfortune of losing his life in a traffic accident, March 7,

1979.

2. KATHARINE KIRTIO

Katharine was born July 7, 1922. She also came from Poland. She too was a sports minded girl, and there was no dull moment when she was around. Katharine married Alex Senko, and they have four children, Alex Jr., Steven, Alexis, and Tim, also five grandchildren. They now all live in Maple Ridge, B.C.

3. MARY KIRTIO

Mary was born July 5th, 1930. She still resides in Kinuso, and is the local postmistress. Mary has always been sports minded and a community worker. She married Steve Karpa and they have six children, John, Pelagia, Margaret, Antone, William, and Freddy.

4. ANTON JR. KIRTIO

Anton Jr. was born July 20th, 1936. He now resides on the old home place (farm). He married Judith Snippa. Anton Jr. has always been a great community worker and has participated in most of the activities. Anton as a youngster, played hockey, hard ball, and loves curling. Anton is at present the President of the Agricultural Society, and has done a tremendous amount of work towards seeing that the "New Community Complex," was built.

Anton and Mary have spent all their lives in Kinuso, and have never spent a Christmas away from one another, 42 Christmas's but really 84, as they celebrate Ukrainian Christmas also. Anton and Judy have three children, Lori-Ann, Katharine, and Stacey.

Anton Kirtio Jr.

Anton was born July 20, 1936, on the farm where he now resides. He attended school in Kinuso and at times, he and his sister Mary lived with their grandmother in Kinuso to attend school.

In the winter of 1951, he started his first employment skidding logs with horses for Nick Tanasuik at old Mile 8, and that spring worked for Imperial Lumber. He then farmed and logged with his dad until the summer of 1958 when he was hired by Jimmy Heathman of Widewater, Alta. doing construction work.

That winter Anton went logging on his own and since that time has been self-employed in the trucking business and until 1973 doing some farming.

Anton has been active in sports practically all his life. At the age of fourteen he started playing senior baseball. He played for the Widewater Tigers All Stars while working for Heathman, who was coach of the team, and has since played mainly for local senior baseball, the last being (Kinuso-Widewater) K & W Saints. In the past few years Anton has also played fastball with the Kinuso Rebels.

When the first curling rink opened in Kinuso, Anton started curling and has continued being active in this sport. Since 1976 he has been President of the Kinuso Agriculture Society which has constructed a complex that houses a new curling rink.

In 1969, Anton married Judy Snippa, who was born July 20, 1948 in High Prairie and had lived there until she moved to Kinuso in 1961, where she com-

pleted her schooling. Judy was also employed at the post office for awhile. Judy and Anton are very active in the Agriculture Society and are always willing to give a helping hand.

Judy and Anton have lived on the farm except for six months in 1972 when they lived in House Mountain where Anton was employed and from the fall of 1974 to the spring of 1976 when they lived in town. They have three girls, Lori-Ann, Kathy and Stacey.

John Kirtio

by sister Mary

John Kirtio, was born January 4th, 1921, and came to Canada with his mother and sister Katharine, in September 1929, to join his father, Anton Kirtio Sr. John, like his parents, experienced the depression and the first few years of struggle and hard work and floods.

John attended the Kinuso school until he was old enough to go out to work for himself; first only helping neighboring farmers, and then on the railroad.

In 1939, John went to the Army, his first training Post being Grande Prairie, Alberta. John served in the Army Forestry Corps, and spent some time in Valcartier, Quebec., and also Chicoutimi, Quebec, where he became Sergeant. John was sent back to Calgary, and was to attend Officers Training school when he met Dorothy Ashbacher, who at that time, was attending school. Dorothy came from Hoosier, Saskatchewan. John and Dorothy were married in Calgary soon afterwards.



John and Dorothy Kirtio.

After the War, John and Dorothy came back to Kinuso, and John immediately went back to work on the railroad and moved to Assinieu. Before becoming foreman on the railroad, John would go as relieving foreman to various communities, anywhere from Peace River to Waterways, and Lac La Biche etc. They lived in Spurfield and Wagner for sometime before moving back to Kinuso permanently. John and Dorothy moved to Kinuso in early 1956, where John became the foreman for Kinuso, until he quit the railroad and became the Postmaster of Kinuso. After 7½ years as Postmaster, John decided that inside work was not for John, so he quit the Post Office, and he and his family moved to Edmonton, where his two daughters were already attending school, and back to the railroad, and Dorothy after being the switch board operator for the A.G.T. in Kinuso, went to work for the A.G.T. in Edmonton.

John being a very active and an outdoor man, loved to play ball and curl, but the most interesting interest was gardening. John loved his flowers, and to see his garden being weedless. John was an active community man and participated in all he possibly could, The Royal Canadian Legion, Boy Scouts, Town Council (councillor for 1 year), sports, Spruce Point Park Assoc., Boys ball teams, etc. He worked hard at anything he did, as well as being a devoted husband, father, son, brother, and Uncle John was also a true friend! John was a great tease, especially with the very young, and could also communicate in four different languages.

John, a relieving road-master instructor, was on the way home from work on Wednesday, March 7, 1979, when he met up with a Semi truck, that took his life, he was 58 yrs. old.

John and Dorothy had three children:

1. Sandra Jane — the eldest, married Gerry Harder, a garage man and mechanic. They have two children, Terry and Gayle. Sandra and Gerry live in Edson, where they own their own home.
2. Peggy Ann — married John Keith, and they have two boys, Michael and Corey. John is the Postmaster of Fairview, and Peggy works for the Municipality.
3. Stewart John — the youngest and only son, is living with his mother, and attending University. Stewart is in his fifth year in Psychiatry, but will be a few more years before he obtains his degree.

The Don and Eva Klyne Story

Donat Jean Klyne, was born in St. Louis, Saskatchewan, on July 1st, 1906. He was the second of 3 sons.

He went to school for 8 years, then farmed in St. Louis, Sask. until 1933. Then he came down with T.B., and was in hospital for 18 months. After he got better he went trapping in the winters, and fire fighting in the summers, in Montreal Lake, and La Ronge, in northern Saskatchewan.

Don and Eva Czelenski were married Oct. 10th, 1940. They had 4 children, David, Catherine, Lois, and Albert.

Eva's father and mother, came from Austria and

homesteaded in the Lakenheath District of Saskatchewan. Eva was born here September 19th, 1914. Here 4 other sisters were born, Theresa, Mary, Francis, and Annie. In 1922, Joe moved his family to Watson, Saskatchewan where her 4 brothers were born, John, Bernard, Joe, and Peter. Then they moved to Paddockwood, where they homesteaded and where Eva was raised.



Klyne family. Left to right: Catherine, Donat, Lois, Eva, David, Albert.

After Don and Eva were married, they also farmed in Paddockwood, until 1942 when they moved to Montreal, and where Don worked in a war plant. In June 1942, Don was transferred to Prince Albert, then to Regina to another war plant.

In the spring of 1948, Don, George Armitage, and Bernard Czelenski, came to Kinuso, Alberta to do breaking and clearing land for farmers of the district. Here, Don and George Armitage both took up homesteads.

November 27th, 1948, Don moved his family to Kinuso Alberta. Eva didn't like the idea of moving, and had her mind made up that she wouldn't like it. She said that she would try it for 5 years. If things were too hard, they'd move back to Saskatchewan. Don said the road must be reasonably good as it was part of the "Alaska Highway", but as soon as they left Edmonton, Eva was sure they must be on the wrong road; it had sharp curves, was very narrow, and there were little bridges all along the way. She says, "I must have liked Kinuso, as I am still here after 31 years", and still living on my farm.

In 1949, Don started working the Imperial Lumber Co. in Kinuso, where he worked for 19 years, until it closed down.

Eva ran the Cafe in the old hotel for 2 years. Don helped her in the evenings after work.

Don passed away April 24th, 1969. All the children have grown up and left home but Eva still farms, feeding her cattle by herself by tractor, at 64 years of age.

David Klyne — was born November 5th, 1942 in Montreal, Canada. He took all his schooling in Kinuso, starting the day after they arrived in Kinuso. In 1967, he married Shirley Jinning from Busby, Alta. They have 2 children, Dion and Richelle. He worked at the Imperial Mill in Kinuso, then moved to Grande

Prairie, Alta., where he worked for the Singer Sewing Machine Co. where he won a trip to Rome. In 1978 he was working in Pakistan with his brother Albert in the Oil. He is now working in Lybia.

* * * * *



Top: David. Left to right: Catherine, Albert, Lois.

Catherine — grew up in Kinuso, and finished her grade eleven in the local school. In 1962, she married Stan Olsen, and they had 2 boys, and 1 girl, Todd, Scott, and Caren. Catherine is now in Slokan, B.C. Lois — after finishing her grade 12 in Kinuso, went to work in the Royal Bank. After making a trip to EXPO, she stayed in Montreal, and went to work for the Bank of Montreal where she still is. In 1969, she married Robert LaPlant of Montreal. They have 1 boy, and 1 girl, Gregoire, born 1974, and Collette, born 1976.

* * * * *

Albert — after finishing grade 12 worked at the Imperial Lumber Co. for a short time, then apprenticed at Bob Jordan's Garage for a mechanic. In 1975, he went to work for the Garnet Oil Co., transferring to Greece. Here he worked for 2 years in Iran. After coming back to Canada, he went back by himself, working 28 days there, and 28 days at home. He is now working in Alberta. Albert married Norma Labby and they have 3 children, 1 boy and 2 girls. Allan — born June 19, 1971; Colleen — born April 1, 1974; Melissa — born Feb. 10, 1978.

Arend and Margaret Kool

Arend Kool was born in Kinuso in 1921. He grew up and attended school in Swan Valley for three or four years, until the family moved to a farm north of town. He then attended school in Kinuso. He attended the Vermilion School of Agriculture for two years also. Arend farmed with his dad, Mr. Sam Kool, till 1946 at which time he went into the trucking business until 1958.

He married Margaret Wilson of Athabasca in 1949. They moved to Swan Hills in 1962, where they ran a store and laundromat until Arend retired in 1977.

They had three children: Derek Kool was born in 1950. He attended school in Kinuso until 1962. He completed his schooling in Swan Hills and then spent

two years in Alberta College. He married Susan Michaud in 1970. They have one son, Gary aged six years. Derek operates a store in Swan Hills.

Brenda Kool was born in 1952 and went to school in Kinuso till 1962, completing her schooling in Swan Hills. She also spent two years in Alberta College. She was employed with Home Oil Co. in Swan Hills for two years before transferring to the Calgary office. She was married in 1976 to Allan Sauden of Calgary, where they make their home. They have one son, Greg, aged one year.

David Kool was born in Kinuso in 1956 and moved to Swan Hills in 1962. He received his schooling at Swan Hills and Barrhead. He is presently attending the University at Thunder Bay Ontario. He has been employed for the past three summers by Shell Canada at House Mountain.

Sam Kool

Sam Kool was born in Delft, Holland in 1892. When he was 27 years old, he married Johanna de Brumn also of Delft. Shortly after the wedding they moved to Canada, arriving in Kinuso in 1919. When they first came he went to work for George Cornell in Swan Valley. He later purchased a piece of land there. The Kool's only son Arend was born two years later.

Sam later sold his land in the valley to Steve Win-



Mr. and Mrs. Sam Kool on their Silver Anniversary, 1940.

ters and purchased a piece of land north of town. His brother Bert helped on the land until his passing.

Mr. and Mrs. Kool returned to Holland for visits to their families a couple of times. In 1952, Mrs. Kool had not been well so she returned to Holland for a short visit alone. When she came back to Kinuso, she gradually became worse and after a long illness, passed away in 1954 at 61 years of age.

Sam and Arend carried on with the farm. In 1946 Arend decided to go into the trucking business, so Sam carried on alone for a few more years. In 1965 he sold the farm to Art Boisvert and purchased two small houses in Kinuso.

In the fall of 1969, Sam became too ill to look after his house, so he moved into Pleasant View Lodge in High Prairie. He was later moved into the nursing home there. He passed away in 1972.

George and Phyllis Krinbill (Bud)

by Phyllis

George (Bud) and Phyllis Krinbill were both born in Edgerton, Alberta. Bud grew up on the farm of his parents and when he got older he farmed on his own.

Phyllis's parents were also farmers, so its not surprising that the Krinbills have been successful at farming in the Kinuso district.

Bud and Phyllis were married, and farmed at Wainwright for 15 years. They had 4 children born to them — Ronald, Pearl, Leonard, and Douglas.

They made a trip up to the Peace River country and liked the look of the area so much that they decided to move up. They were attracted by the abundance of grass for the cattle and such lovely gardens and greenness of the trees. So in 1955, they moved from Wainwright, to the Oscar Lee farm in Driftpile, where they farmed for 2 years. Then they came to Kinuso and rented the Rice farm until 1961.

Wanting to own land of their own, they bought the Tom McNiel farm. They farmed there until 1978, when they sold out to their son Ronald.

They ran a very successful mixed farm there, having a large herd of cattle and at one time a large quantity of pigs. Bud always did a lot of bush work in the winter months, and had a small saw-mill sawing lumber for himself and many other people.

About the children

Ronald and Margaret's story told in other pages of the book.

Pearl — lives in Terrace B.C. She works in the Bank of Montreal there. She has three children, Wendy, Heath, and Dennis.

Leonard — owns and operates a construction outfit. He had 2 children, Blaine and Kelly.

Douglas — lost his life in an airplane crash, in 1969.

Bud and Phyllis, now live in the Town of Kinuso, in a comfortable little place. Phyllis spends her time doing a lot of handicraft and is an active Senior Citizen.

Bud, is part time workman for the Town, and does other jobs for people to pass his time.

Ron and Margaret Krinbill

By Margaret Krinbill

I, Margaret Krinbill, oldest daughter of Raymond (son of Jesse Sloan), and Elsie Sloan, was born in High Prairie and raised in 'The Swan Valley'. My husband, Ron Krinbill, was born in Edgerton and raised in Wainwright, Alberta. He came to Kinuso, Alberta, in 1955. We were married in the 'United Church' in Kinuso, November 7th, 1959.



Ron Krinbill.

We lived in Slave Lake for 2 years, in which time our oldest son, Ricky was born in Athabasca, Alberta, Aug. 15th, 1961, as there was no hospital in Slave Lake at that time. I stayed with Frank and Phillis Brown, while waiting for the new arrival.

We moved back to Kinuso in 1961, where we bought the Idhe farm. Ron worked for The Department of Highways, and farmed. Lee, our second son was born Sept. 21st, 1963, in Grande Prairie. Mom and Dad, were then living there, so I stayed with them.

In 1963, we sold our cows, and packed our bags and moved to Terrace, B.C.; out to the mountains, big wages, and warm weather. We spent 5 enjoyable years out there, but the farming fever got the best of us, so we moved back to Kinuso, on Ron's dad and mom's farm, which we later bought.

Moving back to the farm, you have to have tractor drivers, so April 13th, 1972, our youngest and last son, Terry, was born in Spirit River, Alberta.

We bought the 'old railroad station' in Kinuso, in 1971, and Ron and Earl Sloan moved it out to the farm. We lived in it for awhile but it was so cold in the winter time, we finally had to move out.

We moved into the house on the farm, where we still are.

Doris Kusch

I was born in a cottage in a village called Chenely, in England September 29, 1895.

I left England in the late part of October 1918, after I had recovered from the flu, which was raging in England at the time.

I was coming to Canada to get married to Nels Bale who had heard of the great Peace country. He stopped in the valley was met by Jack Fenske and he decided to settle here, taking a homestead at the lakeshore.



Womens Institute picnic at Mrs. Kusch's near lakeshore.

We had made arrangements to get married in Canada. Going to the London depot to buy a ticket, I found it very difficult. The agent couldn't find a place on the map by the name of Swan River, Alberta, Canada, only Swan River, Manitoba, Canada.

My trip over was on the Olympic, an armoured ship, it blacked out until we got into neutral waters.

Many of the passengers got very ill, several died on ship and were buried at sea, a baby was born during the voyage.

Arriving in New York the evening of the 10th we anchored in the North River until midmorning of the eleventh, which was Armistice day, we were then escorted into the harbor, by the American flag ship and many planes over head.

Our troubles then began, the crew left the ship, and we had to wait until someone felt like unloading the luggage from the ships hold.

I was lucky in having made friends with a young petty Officer who was kind enough to load my luggage on a trolley to the ferry, to get across to Canada.

After many hours, we at last boarded our train, many wives and children very tired and crying. The next lap of my journey took me to Toronto, Canada.

Here there was an influenza epidemic, so there was hardly any one to work, I was held up a week before I could go onto Swan River. When I did arrive the agent realized the mistake and made the correction, but had to wait another week for the next train.

Both Swan River, Manitoba and Toronto were very discouraging, being all alone and not knowing anyone. The next stop was Edmonton, Alberta, during the later part of November, 1918.

From here I sent Nels a telegram saying I would be arriving on the next train. After all the delays and stop overs I finally arrived at Swan River, Alberta, only to find Nels not there to meet me.

Mr. Walker and Mr. Pierce were on the platform when the train came in, they introduced themselves, and offered to help me to the hotel which was Whitecotton's at the time.

The next day I was driven to see Nels, who almost dropped in his tracks, he looked very ill. It was then I discovered Nels had never received the telegram. It was held back by Mr. Walker and Mrs. Pierce who



The Kusch family — 1945.

thought this was a very hilarious joke. Then back to the village which was Swan River. Then back to Edmonton to get married, in the Anglican Cathedral (which burnt down December 3, 1978). We then came back and settled down to the coldest weather 50 and 60 below F., for days I had to stay in, then not being used to it so cold.

Those days the snow would crust very hard and we could walk on top. We used Saturday nights to dance, we all took lunch, and there was plenty of music. In the spring we made our own roads.

My daughter Hilda was born May 7, 1920, three weeks after my father and mother (Mr. & Mrs. Bradford) and sister Vera arrived from England. Vera becoming Mrs. Benny Boisvert three years later.

My father and James McDonald walked and hitch hiked to Peace River to file on homesteads.

In the meantime Nels got very ill and had to go to the Veterans' hospital in Edmonton, where he stayed until his death on Easter Monday 1921.

With my father's help and my mother taking care of Hilda, we worked the farm. It was very hard making a living. I had no pension for myself as the doctor had signed the paper's disability showed after marriage, had a small allowance for Hilda.

Nels had come from Norway in 1910, settled in Owen, Alberta until he had enlisted in 1914.

Later years I met and married Charlie Kusch he was born in Peabody, Kansas in 1883, he spent his youth years there, until he went with his mother, father, 7 brothers and 2 sisters, moved by covered wagon to Fairview, Oklahoma, USA. Then in 1912 he went to Battleford, Manitoba and worked as a plasterer and built the first cistern for the town.

From there he came to Athabasca where he carried mail from there to Smith by team and wagon. In 1919 Charlie moved to Kinuso where he fished and trapped until his marriage.

Then Charlie farmed. We had one son Lawrence born in May 1926 one daughter Doreen born in 1931 (Mrs. George Hunt) who are residing in the area.

We had many cattle the year the lake flooded and also the depression, we had to sell most of our herd which we had worked hard to build up getting \$5.50 a head for the best.

During one of my trips in late fall bringing in the milk cows they decided to go on the opposite side of the slough, I followed on the ice, part way across the ice gave way, I broke through into the icy water up to my neck, grabbing hold of some cat-tails I managed to



Doris and Charlie Kusch.

pull myself out, leaving my rubber boots, to the slough, a bad cut on the back of my neck caused by the ice was the only bruise.

We moved to another farm farther from the lake. Starting all over again, grew grain and some hay.

I had my beautiful garden strawberries also corn and tomatoes almost unheard of in those days. Won many prizes at the fairs my mother and father moved into Kinuso, they also raised lovely gardens.

We made a good come back after many years of hard work I plowed while Charlie disked and seeded the grain. We later went into raising pigs, and our son Lawrence could help.

In August 1948 Charlie became very ill, he passed away a short time later in High Prairie hospital, I sold the farms and went to live in Victoria for 5 years and worked, then came to Edmonton for a few years.

Now in my retiring years 83 I am back in Kinuso enjoying my garden all sorts of handicrafts and going to the Senior Citizens Club. Keeping busy you have no time to worry about one's self.

I also spend winters in Victoria with my daughter Hilda and her husband Syl.

Dave Labby

Dave Labby was raised on a small farm about a mile south of the town of Kinuso. From an early age he was interested in horses and cattle and itching to ride in rodeos. Using a homemade bareback rigging Dave learned to ride by making some of the saddle horses around home buck when he figured his father wouldn't catch him. He learned to ride steers at George Sheldon's and Alfred Tanghe's farms where practice rodeos were held. Dave also had a bucking

barrel he would practice on.

In 1966 Dave rode in his first rodeo. He entered the steer riding event and enjoyed it so much that the next year he entered the steer riding and bareback events. Winning a 2nd, a 3rd and tying for first place in the average at the TeePee Creek Rodeo showed Dave he might have it in him to become a rodeo cowboy. Taking home money fairly often from amateur rodeos, Dave then tried his luck in professional rodeo. Other than a 4th in High Prairie, he wasn't too successful. Getting practice proved to be difficult as, other than riding steers occasionally, the only real practice he could get was at the actual rodeo. Practice was essential when competing against professional riders in the C.R.C.A. who followed the rodeo circuit year-round.

Dave still rides bareback and is in most of the roping events at some of the amateur rodeos. He has now joined the Northwest Rodeo Association and is a member of the Spruce Point Park Rodeo Committee.

In 1978 Dave won a 2nd in the bareback and a 3rd in the calf roping in the Kinuso Rodeo. He's still a rodeo cowboy and is expecting to be in the riding and roping events for several more years.

Dave married Jo Hutchinson in 1973 and with their two children, presently live in Kinuso.

Fred Labby Family

written by daughter Dorothy

Fred Labby was born in Polk County, Wisconsin, U.S.A., on April 21, 1906. He came to Canada with his parents in 1912.

He lived in Legal for three years, attending school there, and later after coming to Kinuso, he attended school for one year, in the old U.F.A. Hall. After this he quit school and went to work helping his father around the farm and doing odd jobs. With a team of black horses, he hauled logs and freight and worked with his horses on the highway from Kinuso to Slave Lake.

In 1927, Fred and his brother-in-law, Howard Posey, helped move the first oil rig in the area, across the lake on the ice with horses.

In 1930, he worked on a bridge in B.C., between Lake Louise and the Great Divide.

Fred farmed the Tanghe place for one summer. Then he and Hank Griffin, another brother-in-law, homesteaded at Girouxville for one summer.

He married Louise Ann Davis, who was born March 17, 1918. They were married in 1937, and lived in a log cabin where George Cline now lives. Here their first 2 children, Joe and Dorothy were born. Fred worked for Clines', haying and feeding cattle. They lived here for 2 or 3 years, then moved to a place behind his father's homestead. Here Pete and Joan were born. After a few years, they moved to where he is now living. Here the rest of the children were born, Gary, David, Dwain, Norma, and twin daughters, Beverly and Brenda.

Fred continued to work at odd jobs; he cut firewood and sold it, until he began to work at the Imperial Lumber where he worked for about 18

years, until it closed down.

His wife Louise, passed away on March 27th, 1954. Dorothy finished out the term at school, then remained at home looking after the younger children and the household, until she married. Fred continued working and raising his family.

All the children are married now and have left home. His son, Dwain passed away on January 6, 1975.

Fred still lives in the same place and at 73 years of age, he still has horses, does his own chores, and still enjoys going to Rodeos. He is grandfather to twenty-four children, who are scattered in various places, B.C., Scotland, Canyon Creek, etc.

Joe Labby Family

written by granddaughter Dorothy

Joe Labby was born in 1875, in Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin, U.S.A., and married Rosie Perron, who was born in 1877 in Milbury, Mass. U.S.A.

They had eight children — Bill, Tillie, Fred, Agnes, Cordy, Marie, Annie, (these were born in the States), Ted, later born in Kinuso in 1916.



Labby family.

Left to right: Grandma Labby, nephew Bill, Fred, Annie, Mrs. Labby, Marie, cousin Agnus, Joe, Tillie, Cordie.

Joe's father and family were already living in Legal, so Joe decided to move his family there. They left Polk County in 1912, travelling by train to Legal, Alberta, where they lived for three years.



Joe Labby and deer.

In the spring of 1915, Joe came to Kinuso to file on a quarter of land, then returned to Legal to help his father put in the crop. When this was done he returned to Kinuso to build on his land, and November 1915, moved his wife and family to the home-

stead in Kinuso.

The first thing Joe did to help earn their living was fishing. Then he worked three months on the railroad. When he got laid off there, he went to work for Harry Walker, putting the roof on his new store, and building shelves and counters. After that was finished, he worked at anything he could find.



Building a Chicken House — 1916.

Left to right: Mrs. Labby, Fred, Tillie, cousin Annie, Bill, Grandma Labby, cousin Cordie, Marie, Agnus, Joe Labby hewing the logs.

Joe and Emile Tanghe exchanged work back and forth, brushing and breaking. Joe wrote to the Government concerning their taxes, and the bad road. He wondered if they could pay their taxes by road work. The Government consented and Emile Tanghe, Jack Killeen Sr., Mose Caribou, Harry Sangster, and Sid Sawyer, worked on the road with horses, cutting trees etc., widening the road to make it passable.

When they finished on the road, they started to cut logs for their own lumber. Jim Harrison owned the mill at that time, though he later sold it to C. R. Field. Rosie did the cooking as they boarded the men who worked for them in their own home.

Joe worked at the mill for several years, and also worked with his oxen.

He raised and sold potatoes and other vegetables, dairy products such as cream, butter, eggs, and cheese. He'd load his boat and go down river and lake to sell them. Later on in the year, he would sell strawberries and raspberries. After the lake closed up for summer fishing, he would take his produce to the Saultaux River Sawmill, and sell to the people there.

On Sundays in the summer, they would hold a rodeo or do some branding, breaking, etc, of the horses that people kept there.

When the girls married and left home, Joe retired. His wife Rosie, passed away March 5, 1944.

The oldest son Bill, loved the Rodeo life and took an active part in it. He also loved hunting, fishing, and trapping. He passed away October 9, 1951. The year after that on May 11, Cordy, his sister, passed away also. Joe and the youngest son Ted, continued to live on the homestead. In the winter months, Ted went to work, so Joe would move into Town and stay with one or the other of his daughters, returning to the farm again in the spring.

Joe passed away January 8, 1953, at 78 years of age. Ted continues to live on the homestead, working out in the winters in the oil field mainly. He also used to enjoy fishing, hunting and trapping. He too was

active in Rodeo life and still enjoys watching it. Ted and brother Fred, are both very adept at woodwork, carpentering, etc.

Arlie Clifford Landaker

Cliff as he was known to his friends, farmed on the Harry Walker homestead with Charlie Freeze. Although Cliff was crippled and had no use of his legs, he was able to farm with horses and did as much work as a man with two good legs.

In September 1929, he married Madeline Dove and in April of 1930, they moved to Brownvale, Alberta. Madeline went by train and Cliff started out with a team and wagon with their belongings. When he reached Berwyn he had to exchange his wagon for a sleigh, the trip took eight days, April 1st to the 8th.

When they moved onto Cliff's homestead about eight miles from Brownvale they had five children, including twins, Joyce, Delmer, Lloyd, Janice and Joan.

Cliff was a good violin player and was in demand for playing at dances and parties, both in Kinuso and Brownvale.

Cliff passed away of heart trouble on August 23, 1953 and is buried in the Griffen Creek cemetery, Brownvale, Alberta.

Cliff had two brothers in the Kinuso district, Lester (known as Brum) farmed on the Windsor Rice place with his brother Sandy. Sandy also worked as a farm hand on different farms in the valley.

Mrs. Cecil Grono (Mabel Stevenson) — Mercy Flight

March 20th, 1930

The following is an excerpt taken from a newspaper clipping

“BROUGHT BY PLANE TO CITY HOSPITAL, MRS. CECIL GRONO OF KINUSO IS RECEIVING MEDICAL TREATMENT.”



Mercy Flight 1930. Plane that took Dr. Rogers, Cecil, Mable and Gordon Grono to Edmonton from Kinuso when Gordon was 17 days old.

Brought from her home in the Kinuso district in a Western Canada Airways Fokker piloted by W. A. Gilbert, Mrs. Cecil Grono was resting comfortably in the Royal Alexandra Hospital, Edmonton, Thursday afternoon, after needed medical treatment had been administered. The aeroplane landed at Big Lake, a

few miles north west of the city, and from this point Mrs. Grono was conveyed to hospital by ambulance.

Pilot Gilbert made the return trip to Kinuso in the Lesser Slave Lake area, approximately 150 miles north of Edmonton, in three and one half hours. Mr. Grono accompanied his wife to the city.

The patient is not in danger, according to hospital authorities.

Mrs. Mabel Lealand meets up with Pilot, W. A. Gilbert

In 1930, when I was taken to Edmonton from Kinuso on a mercy flight along with my husband Cecil Grono, and our seventeen day old son Gordon, the pilot's name was Walter Gilbert.

In 1970, my second husband and I were coming from Nanaimo on the ferry to Vancouver, when my husband talked to Walter Gilbert all the way over as he had known him in the North. I hadn't mentioned that it was Walter Gilbert that piloted the plane, and after we got off the ferry, my husband said who he was talking to and I was so disappointed that I had not met him.

A year or so later, I found out where Mr. Gilbert was, and I wrote him and he answered saying he remembered the flight as if it had been just yesterday.

Jay and Helen Leavitt

by Helen

We arrived in the Kinuso district in April, 1963. We found quite a marked difference from southern Alberta, where we came from, work in the fields had already started there, and winter was only a memory. When we arrived in Kinuso, the snow was still very much in evidence, and there was very little field work done before May 10th, that year. We lived the first four years on a farm owned by Lela Brown, which we rented, then started looking for a place we could own.

We liked the people in Kinuso alot because they were so friendly to us. The trees didn't bother us either or make us feel shut in as we thought they would do.

In 1967 we bought James Erricson's farm, and decided that this was where we really wanted to make our home and raise our children. It was ironic that our oldest son finished his grade twelve and our youngest daughter started her grade one, the first school she attended in Kinuso.

In 1974, I took over the store in Canyon Creek, but we still have the farm. I love the animals, the garden, flowers and farm life. It will eventually pull me back to the farm.

Jay, is the eldest child of Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Leavitt; he was born in Cardston, Alberta, but grew up in Harrisonville. His first eight years of schooling was spent in a school where eight grades were taught by one teacher, in one room. For grade nine he rode to Dolan, and after that, transferred to Cardston's bigger school, where he lived with his Grandmother, and drove the four miles. He was farmer, handy man and jack of all trades, as well as going to school.

I, Helen Lenz Leavitt am the third daughter of

Mr. and Mrs. August Lenz. I was born in Cardston but lived in Hillspring. I was fortunate to be able to go to a bigger school, one teacher for every two grades. Most of my school days started early in the morning as four miles was quite a hike in summer, and a cold drive in the winter. The winter days started early as the horses had to be fed and watered, harnessed and driven to school. As this was bald prairie, the blizzards often hit without warning. The snow would drift with the west wind to the top of our cutters, and upsetting was not uncommon.

Jay and I met in Cardston, and were married in 1944. We lived on his Grandmother's farm, four miles east of Cardston, for the first winter; as the grass started to turn green on the distant hills, we bought a 1929 Dodge car, and left the area.

We settled in the Rosemary country for a time. This was a completely different country, instead of rolling hills, this was flat irrigated country. If you didn't irrigate, you didn't get a crop, and if you did, the mosquitoes flourished. As you walked through the grass there was a cloud of mosquitoes above your head at all times and believe me they were sure "hungry." The cows and horses had to eat in the hot part of the day, because the mosquitoes kept them moving at night.

We farmed here for two years, and it was here that a boy and a girl entered our home and hearts and came to stay; Jerry and Martha.

At Christmas of 1948, we decided that we had been "mosquito bait" long enough, so we moved to Fincastle, some eight miles from Taber. Here was beet hoeing, irrigating and general farm work; we made enough money beet hoeing to make a living.

It was here that Ellen came to us, so we thought we'd better find a home of our own, finally finding a place at Hillspring.

Jay went to work for the Canadian Pacific Railway. We had cows, chickens, pigs and a garden (vegetable and fruit) and a small farm. According to to-days standards, more correctly a "hobby farm."

While here the stork visited us four more times. The older children started school and life was pleasant.

About 1960, the C.P.R. decided that many lines were not paying, so Cardston — Glenwood section was one to receive the axe, Jay had to go further away to find employment. We began thinking of farming on a bigger scale.

After holidaying at Nick Tanasuk's farm in Kinuso, we decided that our future lay in the north.

Here our children finished their education and went their separate ways, for more education or where their hearts directed them.

Jerry — Heavy duty mechanic, married Anna Noskyl, have two children, Cathy and Jeremy. Address Canyon Creek, Alberta.

Martha — Nurses' Aide, married Blaine Harding, have three children Susan, Jane, and Daniel. Address Grassy Lake, Alberta.

Ellen — Teacher training, married Clayton Whaley. Have two children, Mary Ellen, and Michelle. Address Grande Prairie, Alberta.

Doug — Cat skinner and sawyer, married Elaine Larson, have two children, Warren and Tracy. Address Canyon Creek, Alta.

Pearl — House-wife, married Lyle Miller, have two children Leslie and James. Address High Prairie, Alta.

Glenda — Completed Business College, works in Calgary. Address Calgary, Alberta.

Gayla — Grocery — Cashier and house-wife, married Darrell Payne. Address Canyon Creek, Alberta.

Glen and Susan Leitner

by Susan Leitner

Glenn, his father, and brother Al came from Lethbridge in 1931, looking for work as carpenters, being first class carpenters. They had heard so many wonderful stories about the Peace River country. She says "I might add that they were never disappointed."

As soon as they came, Glenn filed on a homestead and built a nice log house 3½ miles west of town, near the Strawberry Creek where they lived for a time.

In October 1934, Glenn and Susan McLaughlin were married. They have four children, Glenn (Bun), Cecile, Karen, and Darcy-Sue.

Susan was born in Ernfold, Saskatchewan in 1916. She is the youngest of five girls, having also seven brothers. Her family came to Kinuso October 1932, to make a new home because of dried out conditions and in hopes that their Father, Stirling's health would improve. He was a victim of Chronic Asthma having had it for forty years. Needless to say, it didn't. They lived on Walker's farm that her brother Doug had rented for them.



Glenn Leitner, building his log house on their homestead — 1931.

After Glenn and Susan's marriage, Glenn built a small house in Kinuso where some of the children were born. In 1938, they moved to Canyon Creek, and went into raising mink. In 1945, Glenn was offered a better deal, working with Jean Boisvert at Waterways. Wanting to get into mink farming again, they moved to Haney, B.C. in 1945 and raised mink there for 18 years. Glenn then sold out to Alex and Catherine Senko, and returned to his beloved trade of carpentering. He worked for the Maple Ridge School District.

At this same time, Susan worked for the Maple Ridge Hospital till Glenn retired. They still reside in their beautiful home in Haney where they can visit

their children and grandchildren often.

Glenn (Bun) was born in Kinuso in 1937. He now lives in Regina, and is a sergeant in the Regina Police Force. He has three girls.

Cecile lives in Seattle and has three children.

Karen lives in Seattle also and works at a Travel Agency. She has one daughter.

Darcy-Sue has two children and lives in Langley, B.C.

Leo and Mary Lillo

by Mary Lillo

Leo (Oliver) Lillo was born in Plummer, Minnesota, U.S.A. in 1911. He came to Swan River, Alta. with his family in 1915 when he was six years old.

The railroad came this far at that time, so they could ship everything all the way, and the family came on the passenger train.

The first year the Lillo's were here, Leo's father worked for Mr. George Cornell; up the Swan Valley. It was there he first attended school, at the little log schoolhouse, which had been built for a church. Later, when his parents moved on their own land, he finished his schooling at the new two room school built in the town of Kinuso. This was in 1922-23.



Leo Lillo on his first trip to Wabasca with Doug McLaughlin.

I, Mary Prichuk, was born in 1926 at my parents homestead in the old log house. Then, there wasn't any doctors or nurses, my parents did the best they could with the help from our relations and friends.

I didn't start school till I was eight years old. We lived about seven and half miles from school. At first I drove a horse and buggy in summer and then in the winter; a horse and cutter. I had this faithful old horse which I called "Bella." Along the route to school I picked up cousin Florence, Lilas and Nin Lillo, and Margaret and Sunny Dewis. I did this for four years, then when the Eula Creek school opened I went there for another four years.

After I quit school I went to work for Mr. and Mrs. Ben Boisvert, for two summers. I also worked a short time for Mrs. W. Rice; then on to work for the McKillops in the post office. When they sold the post office to Harvey Cline, I worked for him for four years.

Leo and I were married and lived with Leo's mother for a few months. From there we moved to



Leo Lillo's trapping cabin.

Mons Ekanger's place, down by the lake. We mink ranched and did our own fishing for feed for the mink. This is where Harry Oliver (Butch) was born to us. We stayed and mink ranched for the next five years, then because it was time for Butch to start school, and there were no buses running from that far away, we moved to an acreage, two miles from town. Here we built our home and built up our mink ranch. We have lived here for over 20 years.

In the meantime, Butch completed his grade twelve in Kinuso and went on to University, getting his Mining Engineers Degree. Butch, then went to Africa and worked there 6 months in a copper mine. He gave that up and came back to Kinuso. Soon after coming back he met Rosalie Anning from Olds and they were married. Butch and Rosalie moved to Fort McMurray and he worked as an Engineer in the "Great Canadian Oil Sands" for four years. In 1977 a son, Tyler Leo was born to them. In 1978 they moved to Calgary where he is now employed for Energy and Conservation.

After 25 years of mink ranching, the mink prices went to pieces, so we had to sell out. We worked for 2 years for Garth Lodge, helping him raise mink, until he also pelted out.

I have worked as a cook for three years in a logging camp, one summer for a "Stand-by" crew for the Forestry at Slave Lake. Now I am employed by Mr. Jordan at Imperial Oil.

Looking back on my younger days, there never were any bears around. We walked the bush for years looking for cattle and never saw or heard tell of bears. It's also told there weren't any deer here till the white men came. I know there used to be a lot of prairie chicken around. Mother used to set a couple of traps on straw piles and that would be our supper. Today you hardly see any. The partridges seem to have disappeared also. Just the odd few are left. The bluebirds are all gone too. When spring came, there used to be flocks of them along the roads and fences. The climate has changed a lot in my lifetime. The winters are milder, and our summers are much cooler.

Times change but life goes on.

The Oscar Lillo Family

My husband Oscar, myself (Ella) and our four oldest children, Irene, Leo, Marvin and Serene,

immigrated from Plummer, Minnesota, arriving in Kinuso which was then known as Swan River, on August 18th, 1917.

We arrived here at sundown, which to me is the most lonesome time of the day, and I will never forget my feelings. All we saw around us were saddle ponies and Indians. I soon lost that feeling and felt at home amongst them, and still do. I have my favourites though, Paul Sound being one of them.

We had a car load of settler's effects which consisted of two horses, two cows, one steer which the boys broke to drive, a wagon and a sleigh. We also had our few household items such as a bed, a stove, table and chairs (some of which I still have 55 years later) and a sewing machine. We also brought the children's pet hen, Tulia. She got busy right away and hatched out a brood of chicks. I think she stole the nest from one of Mr. Cornell's hens, as when he looked for it he found it under a building, and she had taken possession.

We worked for Mr. Cornell from arrival until the following spring. Our third daughter, Iva, was born in December 1917.

The blueberry season commenced at about the time we arrived, and believe me, we went picking whenever we could. We had to go up in the Swan Hills past the old Tom Sloan place. The children enjoyed going so much and always watched for new things along the way. Once a large flock of blackbirds flew up out of the bushes and the children got so excited, they said "Who says there ain't birds in this country."

In March 1918 we moved to Tom Mayne's place, which was near our homestead, and stayed until our own log house was built. This took some time, as our land was heavily timbered and a clearing had to be made for the building site. There were no bulldozers in those days, just a strong back and an axe. As Oscar was a good axeman, he found no difficulty in clearing land or building the house.

When we came, one could homestead and "Prove it up" in three years. Our intentions were to get title and then return to the U.S. After 55 years I am still here, having returned only once after 20 years to see my mother. Oscar never did get back to see his family.

In 1919 we planted ten acres of potatoes on rented land. After countless hours of hoeing and hilling, we took off a 1500 bushel crop in October. Lacking storage we piled them on the field and covered them with vines and earth, intending to construct a "root cellar" and move them in. However, the early winter of 1919 caught us unprepared and they were all frozen. The following spring potatoes were selling at \$4.00 per bushel.

In 1924 our fourth daughter Lilas was born. Also in that year we moved into Kinuso where Oscar became the blacksmith. However, this did not prove profitable and it was back to the homestead in 1926. Viola (Nin) was born in May of that year.

The thirties were a time of bare survival. The largest part of cash income was from the sale of butter and cream. Garden produce and moose and deer meat

were diet staples. It must have been good, as we all remained healthy.



Lloyd and Irene Mathieson. Lillo home in background built in the 1920's.

Our daughter Irene was married to Lloyd Mathieson in 1931. They later moved to Chicago, Illinois. Another son, Alvin was born in July 1934. In the late thirties Leo and Marvin built a new log house, which still stands on the homestead today.

During the forties our family dispersed. First Serene, then Iva and later Nin followed Irene to Chicago, where they later married; Serene to Thomas Warren, Iva to Robert Chappel, and Nin to Clare Coy. They and their families still reside in the U.S.A. Marvin and Lilas joined the R.C.A.F., leaving only Leo and Alvin at home.

Oscar passed away in January 1945.

Lilas returned home after discharge in late 1945, and remained at home until 1947 when she followed her sisters to Chicago, where she married Charles Sablick. Marvin was discharged in January 1946, married Ruth Hingley of Truro, N.S. and returned home to farm.

Leo married Mary Prichuk in 1948, and raised mink for years.

Alvin married Rose Posey in 1960, and still resides in Kinuso.

As one looks back on the past years I suppose the greatest change has been in the enforcement of regulations. In the past we had nearly total freedom. If we required posts or logs we took them from the nearest Crown land. If we needed meat we hunted, regardless of season. Every spring we had great sport snaring, shooting or otherwise taking "Jack fish" on their spawning run. The surplus was canned for later use. Not a Wildlife Officer in sight. I recall once when Oscar went to purchase a hunting license (\$1.00). The Alta. Prov. Police asked if he had yet shot his moose. When he replied that he had not, the officer of the law told him that he had better get his moose before he spent his dollar.

Well, on May 24, 1972 I'll be 80 years old, and after raising eight children, I'm by myself with only memories of the past, of which I have many pleasant ones.

Best wishes to the younger generation and God bless them.

Mrs. Ella Lillo

Mae and Joe Locosse

Mae, Joe and sons Doug, Frank and Wilfred arrived to Kinuso in 1949, from Colinton, Alberta.

Taking up residence in the old Bake Shop, where Mae ran a cafe and boarding-house for the men working for the Green Chain.

Joe worked on the Green Chain and later on helped build the first Divisional school in Kinuso.

The boys all began school in Kinuso, they later moved to the country, living on Joe Tanghe's farm for awhile, then buying a quarter of land from Rand Stevenson, which is now where the Canadian Utilities Power Station is located.



Mae and Joe Lacosse.

They moved to Grande Prairie in 1954, where Joe was employed as a Janitor for a Gas Plant for a time, and Mae worked in the Grande Prairie Hospital, taking her training to become a Nurse's Aid.

Joe filed on a homestead in the Blueberry Mountain area so they later moved to Spirit River to be nearer their farm. After they had proved up their homestead, they sold it and purchased a house in Fairview, where Mae and son Frank still reside.

Joe passed away June 30, 1977, after a long illness and is interred in the Friedenstal cemetery.

Doug and Lillian live in Vegreville, Alta., they have three children Dawna, Gordon and Colleen. Doug has been employed by the Ezee-On Loader Co. for the past thirteen years.

Wilfred and Darlene live in Hines Creek, where Wilfred is employed in a saw mill, they have two children, a daughter Tracy and a son Kurtis.

Leonard and Rhoda Lovelace and Family

Written by Rhoda Lovelace

Leonard (better known as Len) was born to Mose and Alvina Lovelace. He was born in Willowbrook, Saskatchewan, Aug. 24th, 1919. He grew up in that part of the country, getting his schooling and later farming.



Len and Rhoda Lovelace family.
Left to right: Hilda, Linda, Merna and Delores.



Len and Rhoda Lovelace (Wedding day),
Margaret Kool (Bridesmaid).

In 1940, he joined the Army, spending 4 years there, he was discharged, Jan. 20th, 1944.

In 1948, he came to Kinuso, bought land and farmed till his death in 1962, at 42 years of age. In 1951, he married Rhoda Henwood, from Nova Scotia, who had 2 daughters, Linda and Merna. Len

and Rhoda had 3 daughters from their marriage. In, 1952, Len adopted Linda and Merna, now making a family of 5 girls for Rhoda to raise, alone.

Len's mother died in a house fire in 1940, and his father passed away January 27th, 1974 at 90 years of age.

Linda — married Robert Adams, in Kinuso United Church, in 1963. They had one son, Leslie. Robert was killed in a car accident in 1964, leaving her a widow. She re-married in the late fall of 1964, to Winston Larson, of Canyon Creek, Alberta. They have 2 girls, Faye and Carol, making a family of 3. They live in Slave Lake, out on the old highway. Winston works for Zeidler Plywood Plant.

Merna — Married, Allen Strawson of Barrhead, Alberta. They were also married in the United Church in Kinuso, in 1966. They lived in Canyon Creek, Alberta where he worked for Canyon Creek Cold Storage, and also in Slave Lake. In 1973, they moved to Hinton, Alberta. They have two children, William and Charlene. Merna is manager of an apartment block, and Allan works in the bush as a skidder operator for St. Regis Alberta Ltd.

Delores — worked in Slave Lake for the Opportunity Corp. as the secretary after finishing college. She worked for the corporation until she married Tod Sloan of Calgary, Alberta, 1975. They have 2 children, Tammy and Tracy. They live now at Lethbridge, Alberta. He is a truck driver, and she is working also, as a Secretary for a big business.

Hilda — after finishing her Secretary Course at NAIT she married Douglas Boisvert of Slave Lake, in 1974. They were the last couple to be married in the Anglican Church, Slave Lake. They have one child Clayton. They live at Grande Prairie, Alberta. Douglas works for the Highway Branch and Hilda works for The Royal Bank.

Annie Mae — married Peter Turner, of Alder Flats in 1972 at Drayton Valley United Church. They have two boys, Preston and James. They reside in Calgary, Alberta. Peter works for R. Angus, a 1st class heavy duty mechanic. Annie baby sits for people, also works with different groups.

Rhoda lives in a home of her own in Hinton, Alberta, where she is comfortable and happy, and many of her grandchildren visit her from time to time.

The Look Lum Story

Look Lum, came to Canada, from Canton, China, in 1917. He went to Strathmore, Alberta, and went to school there for several years. Then he opened a restaurant there; remaining there until 1945 at which time the second World War was over, so he went back to China to Canton coming back to Strathmore in 1949, where he resumed business in the same cafe.

In 1952, he moved to Paradise Valley. Mrs. Look arrived in 1954.

Quang, their son, arrived the year before where he attended school. In 1957, the family moved to Kinuso and opened the 'Look Lum Cafe'. Quang went back to China, to Hong Kong to seek a wife for himself, in

1961. He returned to Kinuso in 1964 with a very pretty bride. They have 5 children, Faye, May, Susie, and twin boys, Sonny and Benny; all going to school in Kinuso.

Look Lum, passed away in 1966, so Quang carries on the business.

Richard and Vena Lyness

On New Years Eve, 1953-4, Richard met an English Nurse, who was nursing at Driftpile, fifteen miles up the highway. Vena Kitchen, had been in Canada for five years, nursing first at Claresholm and then for Indian Health Services, on various Alberta Indian Reservations, and in the Western Arctic.

Richard and Vena were married in July 1955, and bought a house next door to Mother Kate McDonald. They presented her with Valerie Jean in July of 1956, and then Sandra Dorothy, in July of 1957.

Both Richard and Bobby are Charter members of the Kinuso Legion Branch #188 and helped build the Legion Hall, which has served the community in many capacities over the years, and which the Legion operated as a much needed movie theatre for many years.



Vena and Richard Lyness with girls Valerie and Sandra.

Kate's family have always been active in the community. Angus was a long time member of the United Church Board, and helped in the building of the present church. Kate was a Charter member of the Womens' Institute, and remained an active member until her death. Grandma McDonald spent the last few weeks of her life at the home of Richard and Vena, as she had several heart attacks. She passed

away on March 15th, 1964, at the age of 72. She was sadly missed by her children, grandchildren, and all who knew her.

Over the years, Richard and Vena have continued to be active in the community. Richard was a Village Councillor for 6 years, both have held offices in the Legion and Legion Auxiliary, the Kinuso Fish and Game Association, Red Cross Swimming Programme, Home and School, Guides and Brownies, Women's Institute, United Church Board etc.

Valerie and Sandra received 11 years of their education in Kinuso, and both received grade 12, and achieved matriculation in Slave Lake, traveling daily by school bus. Valerie assisted with the swimming programme for a couple of years, and then passed the Instructors' Course and taught for one summer before leaving to take a Nurses Course. She is now married to Daniel Wagner, and they live in the Ponoka area. They have presented Richard and Vena with grandson Calvin, and granddaughter Deanna.

Upon graduation Sandra took a Secretarial Course, and now works for a real estate development company in Edmonton. They both return to Kinuso as often as possible, especially in the summer time, as they say we have the best beach in the Province.

John Lysko History

John Lysko, came to Canada in 1927, from Poland. He settled in the Kinuso area. His wife Katherine joined him in Aug. 1930, with her came her daughter Mary, who later married Harry Hrynshyn. John homesteaded a quarter section. He later retired to the village in the early fifties. He later sold his land to his son-in-law Harry.

John passed away in 1954.

James McDonald

Nickname (Lakeshore). James McDonald was a veteran of the first world war, (Princess Pat Regiment). Came to Kinuso in 1919. He raised cattle plus grain farmed on his farm about four miles north of Kinuso. Passed away in the veterans hospital in Edmonton in the 1950's.

"Kate McDonald" and "Richard and Vena" "Lyness"

written by Vena Lyness

Kate (Erikson) Lyness McDonald, was born January 10th, 1892, in Forest Lake, Minn. U.S.A. As a young woman, she emigrated to Canada, where she met Robert Fleming Lyness. They were married on September 10th, 1913 at Castor, Alberta. They lived in Castor, and Hanna, for a few years, where their children were born.

Richard James — December 1915

Mildred Ann in February 1918

William Robert — in April 1919.

However, when the new baby was just a few months old, Robert Sr. died suddenly, Nov. 1919, leaving Kate Lyness, as a young widow with three



Kate (Lyness) McDonald.

small children.

In 1921, Mrs. Lyness moved to Kinuso, as she had a sister, Mrs. Nettie Stevenson, who was homesteading in the area. It was here, that she met Angus McDonald,; they were married in Kate's home on Aug. 11th, 1922.



Angus McDonald.

Now, Angus, with Kate's two sons, Richard and Bobby, started a "Meat Market Business" in the Town of Kinuso in 1921, running it until War broke out, when they both joined up. Angus carried on alone till April 1945, when he died after surgery.

This was the status quo until Richard and Robert joined the Canadian Army, during the second 'World War', both served overseas. In the meantime Mildred



Richard, Bobby and Mildred Lyness.

married John Sutton Moore in Edmonton, and they have made their home there ever since that time. They have two daughters, Marilyn and Sharon, and five grandchildren. While overseas, Robert met and married Lyn Parkinson, and on their return they settled in Kinuso for several years. Their daughter Mavis was born overseas, then Sheila and Alan were born in Kinuso. Bobby and Lyn and their family left Kinuso in 1956, to make a new home in Victoria, B.C.

In April 1945, Angus McDonald, died after surgery in an Edmonton Hospital leaving Kate a widow once more. Richard, returned from service with the Army and carried on the "meat business" as before until he built the "Kinuso Meat Market" as it is today. The present premises were opened in the spring of 1948.



Richard Lyness in front of his Meat Market.

"Shorty" McDonald

My History About Kinuso Area

The first time I visited Kinuso was in 1929 or 1930. The Swan River was flooding, also Lesser Slave Lake. There were two stores, the H. W. Walker & W. Rice. Ben Boisvert had the Pool Room. The road went right through the Village (I mean the highway).

I returned to Kinuso in Jan. 1947, to take over the N.A.R. water tank. It was pure hell the first year! I

had to bring the water from the main channel on the south side of the river. This took pipes across the river, and fires and stove pipes that were not necessary. I got the dragline to change that, but had to lift the line each night in spring, summer and fall, as flash floods would take it away if it was forgotten. I only lost one 20 ft. 4 in. rubber hose.

Kinuso was one of the best farming districts I ever knew. It was also the most friendly country I've ever known.

Rev. P. S. McKillop

Mr. McKillop was born at Inverness, Quebec, on January 16, 1844. He married Caroline Cecilia Hadley of Stanbridge East, Quebec, in June 1878.

Mrs. McKillop died in St. Albans, Vermont in 1920.

To this union five sons were born, Pascal P. who died in infancy, William Stuart of St. Albans, Vermont, Wilfred L. of Kinuso, Alberta, Archibald C. who died at Globe, Arizona in 1915, and Donald J. of Regina, Saskatchewan.

In his early twenties, Dr. McKillop entered the University of Ann Arbor, Michigan for his medical course, after which he practised medicine for twelve years.

He received a call to the Baptist ministry and at various times served his church in Westport, N.Y., Lowell, Mass., East Swanton and St. Albans, Vermont. He organized the American Medical Missionary Society and for several years was secretary for the Dominion Alliance with headquarters in Montreal.

Dr. McKillop was a well known phrenologist and was also author of "Britain and America" and "The Lost Israelites".

After the death of his wife he made his home with his son W. L. McKillop at Kinuso, at whose home he died at age 84 years, on May 20, 1928.

Interment in Swan Valley Cemetery.

Andrew McKinley



Mrs. Andrew McKinley — 1964.

Andrew McKinley was born in Valcartier, Quebec. He married Mary Anne McBain. After they were married, they lived in Sherbrooke, Quebec, and worked for the Quebec Central Railroad as Car Inspector.

They moved to Kinuso, Alta. in 1920, together with five of their six children, all born in Sherbrooke, Quebec.

Pearl (now Mrs. E. A. Thompson)	Victoria, B.C.
George McKinley	Victoria, B.C.
Elmer McKinley	Kinuso, Alta.
Robert McKinley	Montana, U.S.A.
John McKinley	Lac La Hache, B.C.

John has a family of 8.



Joe Stone and Mrs. Andrew McKinley.

Andrew McKinley had a brother in Kinuso (Curtiss) who had moved to Kinuso and homesteaded there some years prior to the arrival of Andrew and his family, who moved into Curtiss' homestead for about a year before homesteading on his own.

Andrew passed away in 1928, and Mary Anne passed away in 1966.

Curt McKinley

Curt McKinley came to Kinuso in 1913 and filed on the W½-17-73-9-W5, which is north of No. two highway — by Eula Creek. This property is now owned by D. S. McLaughlin (McLaughlin Bros.) Curt, after service in world war one, joined the Slave Lake Forestry and was one of the Rangers for several

years. He patrolled on horse back, leading one or two pack horses, packed with bed roll and supplies for a month. His route was from the Swan River Forestry station in the southern end of the valley to Whitecourt over Deer Mountain and in the vicinity of where the present town of Swan Hills is situated. This route was between 80 or 90 miles in distance. He also petrolled what was then known as the North Boundry Trail which would bring him out near Sunset House and Valleyview. After being an Albertan for 40 years Curt McKinley has always made his own living. He is extremely active and likes to talk of then times when the Indian were here. Curt has kept himself busy for the past few years, cutting pulp wood and working in various mills in the district.

In a forest fire threat Bill Drever tells the following, of Curt. Curt McKinley at 83 years, wasn't fussy about moving from his shack in the Canyon Creek area one Saturday night because, he considered he was quite able to look after himself.

Mr. Mason, forest ranger for the provincial government, and R.C.M.P. Constable Gordon Bligh, had to be exceptionally persuasive to get Mr. McKinley to leave his quarters although flames were within feet of his shack. To have flames from a forest fire licking at your doorstep would frighten most people, but Curt at 85 couldn't see it that way. Curt being a former Dominion Government Ranger lived in a small dwelling near Canyon Creek, on the south shore of Lesser Slave Lake. The move was considered necessary by Mason Wood, a Provincial Forest Ranger and Gordon Bligh, R.C.M.P. from Slave Lake when they found the flames making for the old timers dwelling. They found him quite unconcerned. He said that he was one of the best fire fighters in the area and he wasn't moving. He was informed that he had to move out. Not fussy about the idea, Curt took his time, puttering around the shack as the flames closed in. "If I didn't have rheumatism, you wouldn't get me out of here so fast," he complained to his rescuers, as he continued to take his time about leaving.

"If you didn't have rheumatism we'd get you out a lot faster" one of them quipped back. Curt just smiled and started toward the road. Out of danger, Curt went with Ranger Wood and Constable Bligh to Slave Lake, where he will work along side Mr. Wood repairing axes and other equipment. Curt is now living in a house which he helped build some 30 years ago. It is on Mr. Woods property. The journal interviewed Curt at his new quarters a few days later and he seemed quite unconcerned and happy.

"How many years young are you Curt?" he was asked. "about 83, I guess, but that's not my military age. I think it's about 11 years less than that," he replied.

"They didn't set them then, like they do now," meaning forest fires. Mr. Wood interrupted at this time, saying "We're not saying that all these fires are set, Curt." The old timer laughed and said, "Well they were started somehow."

After his retirement from the forestry, Curt lived on his farm until death.

Casey and Vera McLaughlin

By Wife, Vera

Vera Came in 1914. Casey Came in 1932.

Casey (Wallace McLaughlin) was born in Arcola, Saskatchewan, in 1909. His parents came from New Brunswick, to farm in that area. He came from a family of twelve, seven boys and five girls; he was the third oldest of the boys.



Casey McLaughlin delivering milk. He and his family ran a dairy for eleven years — 1945-56.



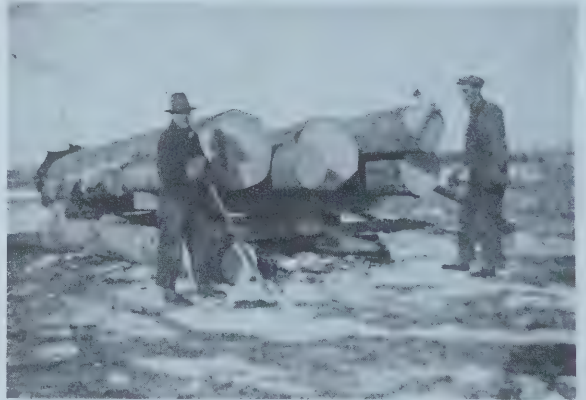
Casey McLaughlin riding his saddle horse "Dan".

He got most of his education in country schools in Saskatchewan. It was difficult for him, as it was for other farm children, to start school at the beginning of the term because the grain had to be threshed first. The only way to get to school in the winter months was: walking, riding horse-back, or driving through the severe cold, deep snow, and the famous "prairie blizzards." This meant only attending part time.

When he quit school, he worked for his brother-in-law, Bill Eubank, on his ranch doing farm work and breaking wild horses. He also worked on other ranches in the district such as the "Kerr Ranch," in Saskatchewan.

In 1932, due to drought conditions and his father's health, the family decided to move to the Peace River country (Kinuso), where his brother Doug had rented a farm, (the Walker farm east of Kinuso) so Casey decided to come too.

His father, mother, and sister Susan, came to Kinuso on the passenger train from Morse, Sask., where the family lived. Casey and his three younger brothers Bob, Stan, and Les, came in two box cars on the freight train. There was supposed to be only one man to a box car, Casey and Bob. Stan and Les kept well hidden whenever they stopped at a station so they wouldn't get caught. I don't know what would have happened to these two little boys if they had. They brought with them horses, cows, chickens, farm machinery, and household effects.

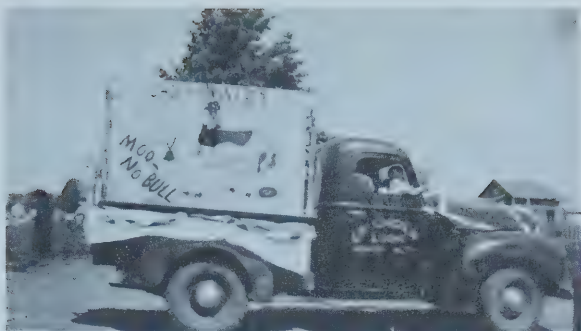


Casey McLaughlin and Scotty McNeil hauling saw logs.

They arrived in Kinuso, November 1932, and immediately moved to the farm. Casey with his brother's help, farmed this land for two years. Later he worked at various other jobs in the district such as hauling hay for Charlie Cline, and working on the local roads pulling buckets and scrapers with horses.

In 1936, Casey and I were married and moved to our farm 6½ miles east of the town of "Kinuso." It was here that our two sons were born. Dale was born in 1937, and Craig was born in 1940. After eleven years Nellie, our daughter, was born in 1951 in High Prairie, Alberta.

When the boys got old enough to go to school, we had to move to Town so they could attend the school there. In town we started a "dairy," which we ran for eleven years. During this time the town became incorporated and a "Town Council" was formed.



Casey McLaughlin and son's milk delivery truck. Picture drawn by Mrs. Lysne. Truck was put in 1st July parade.

Casey served on the Council and was Mayor for two terms. When he became tired of the dairy, he sold it and took the job of Town Policeman. This was a job that paid him \$200.00 per month. When his health failed he had to give this up. After a lengthy illness, he died on February 4, 1959 of cancer.

I was born in New Westminster, British Columbia, in 1909. The year I was five years old I came with my parents to Swan River (Kinuso). We didn't come "on" the railroad, we came "with" the railroad. The roadbed was made but the steel wasn't all laid. The first train came through in the fall of 1914, and only went as far as the tressle just the other side of the station. There was a spur built there so the engines could back around.

I grew up in a "Restaurant," which Mother and Dad started, to serve meals to the railroad men. As a little girl I waited on tables and washed dishes. Oh!, those piles of dishes!

When I was old enough to go to school there was "no" school to go to. I remember staying with Mrs. Moore up the Valley. There was a log building which was built for a church, but classes were held week-days in it. The first time I went, the teacher stayed a week and then was called to War. Then another man came and he stayed three weeks before he was called. The next year, Mrs. C. R. Field, who was a licensed teacher from the "East," fixed up a room in her home for a classroom. She taught her own children, the Lillo children, the Vanderaegen children, Ellen Adams, and me. In 1921-22, a two room school was started in Kinuso, so Mrs. Field closed her classroom up. While we were waiting for our new school to open, school was held in the U.F.A. Hall. Mr. Musto and Miss Mackie were my teachers the first years.

I grew up in "Town" as we always called it. Our entertainment was walking to the bridge and back watching the river flow along. Especially in flood time, we watched the river with much interest. Sundays, we all went to the lake mostly on horseback, sometimes as many as twenty of us. Once a week there was always a "dance" in the U.F.A. Hall, where we danced till 3:00 A.M. in the morning. Later, in 1936, after I was married, I joined the Women's Institute and was active in that for many years. In 1960, Mrs. VanderHorst, Margaret Dumont, and I started a girls club called the "Kinuso Kalico Kids," which was sponsored by the Women's Institute. Mrs. Lovelace, Karen and Carol McLaughlin (my

daughter-in-laws) helped with this club. At one time there were as many as forty girls. We made many trips to "Olds, Alta." for conventions.

The years went by raising the family and running the dairy. Then in 1963, my sons Dale and Craig, decided to move back to the farm to raise cattle. Nellie and I also moved.

Nellie is now married and lives in Donnelly, Alta. I live in a nice little cottage on the farm close to my two sons, their wives, and my eight grandchildren. My 9th grandchild, Lane, lives in Donnelly, but comes to see me often. At the age of 69, I still enjoy my garden and my handicrafts.

* * * *

Nellie entered this world on a cold, snowy night, Jan. 21, 1951, in High Prairie, Alberta. She took all her education in the Kinuso School. After finishing High School, she took a short course in Pre-School instruction. Doing that for a couple of years, she then accepted the job as secretary for the Kinuso School.

As a little girl, she started playing the piano. Her Aunt Myrtle taught her how to play the piano by ear. She also took piano lessons from the following teachers: Miss Tomick, Mr. Goodine, and Mrs. Wakefield. At 7 years old, she played in school concerts and Amateur Hours. When she was 10 years old or so, she played the church organ for Sunday School, and later when her Aunt Myrtle moved to B.C., she took over playing the organ for church services, weddings, and funerals. She also plays in the Orchestra with her brother Craig.



Paul, Lane, Nellie and baby Layton Montpellier.

Nellie married Paul Montpellier of Donnelly, Alta. Paul was raised in Morinville, Alta., and moved to Donnelly with his parents. After finishing high school, he went to N.A.I.T. and became a Computer Technician. In Sept. 1974, he purchased the "Mac-leods Store" in Falher, Alberta, where they are doing a very successful business.

Nellie and Paul make their home in Donnelly, and they have one son Lane, born August 10, 1968. He is very interested in playing hockey and baseball.

Craig and Carol McLaughlin and Family

Craig, who is the second son of Casey and Vera McLaughlin was born May 30th, 1940, in the old

farm house 6½ miles east of Kinuso.

At the time Craig was being born, the roads in the district were just being built and the ½ mile from the farm to the highway was axle deep in mud. Casey started for the nurse, but by the time Craig had arrived the nurse still hadn't been able to get there. The car had bogged down and it was there a week before they could get it out. In those days there was nothing but a team of horses to pull a vehicle out.

When he was growing up, he helped in the "dairy" the family ran. One of the jobs he did was delivering milk, which was usually done before he went to school. Casey, his father, always referred to the dairy and farm operation as "Casey and Sons."

When Craig was 16 years old, they decided to sell the dairy and buy a "TD6 Caterpillar Tractor," which was the thing then and a dream of Craig's. He drove this "Cat" and a lot of heavy equipment doing road-work on the surrounding area for over 20 years. He is now "Road Foreman" for the Dept. of Highways, and his area is from Assineau, Alta. to Jousard, Alta.



Craig McLaughlin family.
Left to right, Back: Maureen, Carol, Craig, Trudy.
Bottom: Gayle and Shari.

In 1962, Craig and Carol Snippa were married. Carol was born in 1945. She moved with her parents to High Prairie, where she took most of her schooling. She, and her family, moved to Kinuso which was her mother's old home when she was seventeen years old.

After their marriage, they lived in Kinuso for awhile, then in 1968, they moved to the farm, 6½ miles east of Kinuso, where he and his brother Dale went into cattle.

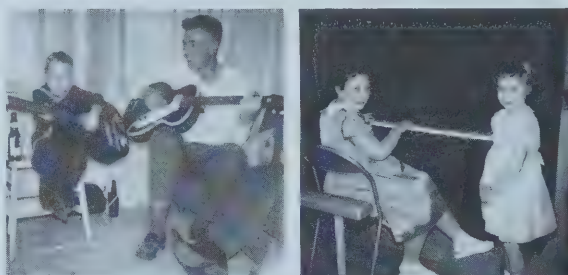
When Craig was in his teens, he became interested in music and learned to play the guitar and sing. He and four other young men started an orchestra. They were: Pete Czelenski, Francis Dow, Jim Dow, and Maurice Beaupre. Some years later when some of the boys dropped out, his sister Nellie joined the group.



Craig and Nell's Orchestra.
Left to right: Craig McLaughlin, Raymond Gagon, Pete Czelenski,
Nell not in picture.

Craig and Pete Czelenski have kept this band going for twenty years.

Craig and Carol have four daughters:



In the beginning — Craig's and Nell's Orchestra. Craig learning to strum and Nell learning to play the piano, with Linda Dumont.

Maureen — born April 7, 1964 — is in grade 10 and very interested in sport activities.

Gayle — born May 7, 1968 — is in grade 5.

Shari — born April 8, 1971 — is in grade 1.

Trudi — born July 11, 1974 — is in Playschool.

Dale and Karen McLaughlin and Family

Dale has spent all his life in Kinuso. He was born May 5th, 1937, which makes him a pioneer of some 42 years.

He took his schooling in the "Kinuso School," with some of his teachers being Mr. Henry Lysne and Mr. Fred Dumont. After leaving school here, he took a two year course in the Fairview School Of Agriculture, and graduated in 1956.

After coming home he farmed with his father in the summer, and drove a "Cat" and powersawed in the winter. He and his brother Craig, had a two men operation going driving a TD6 caterpillar which they owned. He cut trees for various mills, cleared oil sites, and cleared the right-of-way between Kinuso and Canyon Creek.

In 1961, Dale married Karen McCuaig. Karen was born at Shaunavon Sask., on November 21, 1944, but grew up at Consul Sask., near the Maple Creek district, on her father's ranch.

Karen took her "teacher training" in Saskatoon. In 1960, she came to Kinuso to her first school. Last



Karen (McCuaig) McLaughlin.

year 1978, she got an award for long service in the same school.

In 1968, they moved to their farm 6½ miles east of Kinuso, and moved a big house there to live in. They bought the house from Arend Kool. Dale and his brother Craig, then went into cattle raising.

Dale has contributed much to the community by his interest in pure bred cattle, introducing artificial insemination. Some of the breeds he has tried are: Charolais, Semmental, and Herford, but mainly stayed with Charolais crossbreeds.



Dale McLaughlin at work with power saw.

As a side line and a hobby he has started an Apiary, sometimes having as many as 400 hives of bees at a time. Hives are farmed out on many farms in the area wherever there is good feed. Honey is sold locally and also shipped in barrels to outside markets.

Dale and Karen have four children, two boys and two girls.

Kirk — born in 1962 on Nov. 12th — still going to school, taking grade 11. He's interested in



Left to right, Back: Grandfather McCuaig, Melanie, Kirk, Dale McLaughlin.
Front: Kyla and Kenny.

the cattle and "bees," having hives of his own.

Melanie — born in 1964 on June 20th, taking grade 9. She's very interested in 4H work.

Kyla — born in 1971 on Oct. 26th, is in grade 2.

Kenny — born in 1972 on Sept. 3rd, is in grade 1.

Douglas Stirling McLaughlin

I was born in New Brunswick, December 29th, 1904. I was raised in Morse, Saskatchewan. Left home in November 1920, and with my brother-in-law, Bill Eubank, went to Peace River, where fibbing about my age (not quite 16), I homesteaded, but stayed only a few months, and returned to Morse, Saskatchewan. I then left for Cranbrook, B.C., where I worked in logging camps, on survey crews, and then on highway construction work as a machine operator. I drove one of the first caterpillar tractors to be used in bush work in British Columbia.

After a trip or two back to the prairies, I left Cranbrook in the fall of 1927, for Peace River, Alberta, and got work on a survey crew under District Engineer J. Homer Johnston for the winter. In the spring of 1928, I started work for the Alberta Dept. of Public Works under Floyd Kresge, and worked at McLennan, Slave Lake and Canyon Creek, until the winter of 1930, when I worked as rodman on the survey from Triangle (High Prairie) to Valleyview, under Engineer Hugh Stevens. In the spring of 1931, I went back with Homer Johnston, and was sent to Kinuso with a "30" Cat and pull grader and put in charge of all road work, including the main highway from Enilda to Laurance Lake, 25 miles east of Smith and Hondo south. Later on the district was cut off at Smith. In addition to the main highway, had the Moose Portage road to the east end of Fawcett Lake, the Grouard road to the bridge, and the Swan Valley and Driftpile Valley road. Later on getting the Wabasca Trail, and the Swan Hills road. Roy Field

drove the "30" cat and I operated the grader. We maintained the highway from Enilda to Smith, and in spare time graded or built the local roads. This year, 1931, we graded the road south up the Valley to Albert Foley's Ranger Station, and north to Harry Sangsters. Roy Field and I worked together for six summers, and never had a row, although we had many arguments. Most summers we ran two shifts in the long days, and then Leo Lillo, Jimmy English, and Bob McLaughlin worked with us.



Doug McLaughlin.

In the fall of 1931, I rented Harry Walkers farm on Strawberry Creek, and my family moved up from Morse, Saskatchewan. There was Wallace (Casey) who married Vera Sutherland, Bob, married Thelma Bowen, Don, married Essie Miskimmons from the Wainwright district, Susan married Glen Leitner, Stan was married in England to Molly Greatley, and Les married Meryl Peters of Morse. Doug, Bob, Don, Stan, and Les were all in the Armed Forces. Casey had been hurt in a car accident or he would have been there too. I was in from September 1939, to August 1945. An older brother, Crawford, was overseas in the 1st World War.

On the 17th of June, 1934, Myrtle Whitecotton and I were married, the first couple to be married in the new Kinuso United Church. The minister, a Mr. Deepröse of McLennan, married us and then quit preaching and went to work for the N.A.R. on the B & B gang. Later on he taught school in Edmonton.

Previous to our grading of the roads south and north of Kinuso, some work had been done with horse drawn machines by the Cline Bros., Charlie and Harvey, by Finney Hill, and Martin Gallagher as well as others. However, we moved the roads on to the road allowances and put in the ditches. At J. C. Hunts, there were several poplar trees in a line where the ditch should have been. J. C. had camped under them when he first came to the Valley, and was sorry to see them taken out, so we left the trees and moved the road, and I believe they are still there.

I believe that I supervised the building of every foot of the original Moose Portage road from the

highway to Fawcett Lake. In the early 30's, I would take the train from Smith, walk down to the river and cross on the ferry and walk another mile to Alex McLeans, the Government Telegraph Line man, hire a saddle horse and ride into Moose Portage to check the work being done, and make out the paysheets.

In 1935, the year of the flood, fourteen miles of highway east of Slave Lake was under water, when the water first came over the road we laid corduroy. This was sixteen foot poles, 8 to 12 inches in diameter over the soft spots. As the water rose each day, we laid more corduroy until we had over two miles at Slave Lake and east, then a big storm with west winds raised the water a foot in one night and most of the corduroy floated away, and the only road to the Peace River country was closed.

Lew Morrison, livewire merchant from Slave Lake, and George Turner, a fisherman from Widewater built a scow, pushed by a motor boat and hauled cars up the Slave River for \$25.00 per car. The Highways Department bought the Morrison-Turner scow, built one more and hired one and hauled the traffic at no charge. George Turner was put in charge of these scows and did a real good job, sometimes working around the clock to keep the traffic moving. In his crew of operators was Jim Hamilton, Joe Paquette, Bill McDonald from Slave Lake, and Bob McLaughlin and Cecil Grono from Kinuso. Ted Keats helped me and kept the cars lined up for loading. Ten miles east of Slave Lake was under water, then a dry stretch of six miles, which we called the Island, then another five miles was under water. With two scows on the long run and one on the short run, many people would be stranded on the Island. They would be stranded for as long as three days without food. Mrs. Frank Nash of Slave Lake set up a cafe in a government road tent and sold meals, and more government tents were set up by the cafe for sleeping in. The new road south of Slave Lake via Mitsue and across the Slave River was built this year and completed by freeze up. The old town of Slave Lake had an average of three feet of water and all basements and most of the houses were flooded. In the summer of 1935, the Red Cross sent me fifty tents of various sizes, and I had to allot these to the different families.

In October of that year, Homer Johnston surveyed a new townsite at the railroad, two and one half miles south, complete with streets and avenues. The lots were all numbered and anyone who had a lot in the old town was to get a lot in the new townsite. This was my job to give out the lots. That winter a house mover, John McKinnon from Edmonton, was hired by the government to move the buildings to the new townsite. The government supplied the power, a "60" Cat, and I operated it. We moved forty two different buildings. The bridge wouldn't carry the loads, and we had to go on the lake, sometimes as far as the Island to find solid ice.

Our district and roads, got quite a boost in the mid thirties, when landowners were allowed to work out all back taxes on the local roads. We had the highest ratio of taxes worked out of my district in Alberta.

Leo Lillo helped me on this and between us we called on every tax payer and asked them to come and work out their taxes. We had a grant of \$600.00 that year for the local road work, and for every four dollars they worked on taxes, we let them work one dollar for cash. Leo supervised most of the work in the Kinuso area and I did Smith, Moose Portage, Slave Lake, and Enilda.

In November of 1938, Leo Lillo and I took the first car into Wabasca. It was Leo's Model A Roaster. More than two hundred Indian children saw a car for the first time when we arrived. In 1946, the Department of Highways and the Forestry, started the Wabasca Trail work, and fifteen years later we had a gravelled road from Slave Lake to West Wabasca. That fifteen years on the Wabasca Trail is a story all in itself. Returning after the war, I started in the Department of Highways where I had left off in 1939. At this time I also bought the Curtis McKinley farm on Eula Creek, and was a week-end farmer for several years.

The Royal Canadian Legion Branch was organized in Kinuso after the War, and I became involved in that as President, Zone Commander, and finally as District Commander. During my time as District Commander, Myrtle and I would travel as far as four hundred miles over the week-end. We would hold a meeting of Vet's on Saturday night, another on Sunday afternoon, and a third on Sunday night and then drive home in time for work on Monday morning. Tom and Bea Hill went with us on many of these trips and helped with the driving while I slept.

Not having enough to do with the Highway and Legion, I was appointed Justice of the Peace of the Peace in July 1955, and as the nearest Police Magistrate being fifty miles away, I tried most of the cases that came under the Provincial Statutes, such as liquor and traffic infractions. We held court in the Town Hall on Saturday mornings except once. We had a man working on a Cat on the Swan Hills road twenty five miles south of Kinuso. George Gallagher was in charge of the job. One day, I took Joe Moger and went up to see the work. While we were there, the Forest Ranger came with a summons for this man, as he was charged with burning stubble on his farm without a burning permit. He said he would lose a day if he had to come to court in Kinuso. So swearing George Gallagher in as Clerk of the Court, we held Trial on the tailgate of the Government truck. The fine was \$10.00 and \$2.00 costs with two weeks to pay. So everyone was happy and justice had been done.

After thirty-nine and a half years with the Highways, in July of 1966, I retired and Myrtle and I moved to Peachland B.C., where we are still living. A nice place to live, but we still remember the many friends and the good times we had in Kinuso.

Myrtle Whitecotton (McLaughlin)

I was born in Edmonton in 1917. My parents were already living in Kinuso at the time of my birth.

I grew up in Kinuso and received my education at

the Kinuso two-room school. Some of my teachers were Miss Leona Blades, Miss Marjory Jones, Miss Lottie O'Leary (now Mrs. Roy Field), Mr. Kenny, and Mrs. Ihde. Mrs. Field and I still correspond at Christmas.

After leaving school, I stayed at home with my parents until my marriage to Douglas McLaughlin in June of 1934. After my marriage I joined the Women's Institute and was involved with the Nurses Home Committee, and the United Church.

In 1939, Douglas joined the Royal Canadian Engineers and we lived in Edmonton until April 1940, when he was sent to Toronto to await the convoy overseas. I returned home and stayed there until January of 1941, when I went to work for the W. L. McKillops. I worked for them in the Post Office, and also looked after Mrs. McKillop, who was unable to do much due to a heart condition. In 1944, I went with the McKillops to Naniamo where they planned to make their home after leaving Kinuso. I spent six weeks there helping them to move twice before the return to Kinuso.



Myrtle McLaughlin at her home in Kinuso.

I can remember when I was about seven years old playing the piano for church service in the U.F.A. Hall when Dr. Peter McKillop was the Minister, progressing finally to the organ at the United Church, also playing for Christmas concerts, weddings, and funerals. I have many lovely gifts, and cups and saucers that were given to me during that time.

In 1963, I went to work as secretary for the Village of Kinuso, and found this quite an experience, especially being awakened in the night to search a female prisoner.

Douglas returned from Overseas in July of 1945, so it was back to being a housewife again.

After the Legion Branch was formed in Kinuso, the wives decided to help out with a popcorn concession and we became the Legion Wives Club. Some years later we joined the Ladies Auxiliary, and I was its first President. A time I look back on with many happy memories.

In 1966, we left Kinuso and moved to Peachland B.C. We built our home during the winter and have

had many visitors over the years who we are always pleased to see. We have made several trips back to Kinuso. In 1974, we were given a wonderful party on our 40th Wedding Anniversary, at which 185 of our friends attended.

In 1968, I started work with the Corporation of Peachland, and have spent the past ten years as Collector for the Municipality.

We enjoy Peachland, especially the winter weather, but after living in Kinuso for fifty years, we still think of it as home.

Mrs. Ethel McLaughlin

Grandma McLaughlin was probably one of the most interesting grandmothers and great grandmothers and one of the most wonderful Canadians that many of us ever knew.

Mrs. McLaughlin was born in New Brunswick in 1876. In 1895, she married Sterling Crawford McLaughlin and began the hard, yet pleasurable life of helping her husband farm. When she was 22 years of age, she was crippled with polio and spent her entire life on crutches, moving from New Brunswick where she was born and wed, to homes in the States and Canada, yet she found time to raise her family of twelve children, 5 girls and 7 boys Bell, Bessie, Gladys, Jean and Susan; the boys — Crawford, Douglas, Wallace (Casey), Bob, Don, Stanley and Leslie and give a hand to her husband who suffered chronic asthma all his married life.

The couple moved to New Hampshire, in 1898 and remained there for 8½ years. In 1906, they came to eastern Regina to farm. It is well to remember at this point, that the hard prairie life was especially difficult for a woman crippled by polio.



Ethel McLaughlin. Picture taken January 22nd on her birthday.

At this time, homesteads looked attractive, and the family with eight children moved to Morse, Sask. Here, with the assistance of relatives they constructed

one of the finest two storey houses in the district at that time. Three more boys and one girl were born, this brought the family to an even dozen. In 1932, they moved to Peace River, where their second eldest son was district foreman (Doug McLaughlin). He helped them to settle on their new farm.

Five of their sons went away to war and happily all returned uninjured. They were Doug, Bob, Don, Stan, and Les.

After her husband's death, Mrs. McLaughlin moved to Haney, British Columbia, where she lived for 22 years, enjoying the company of her friends, her 38 grandchildren, 60 great grandchildren, and 5 great, great, grandchildren. To fill her time she kept her many grandchildren, etc., well supplied with knitted mitts and socks, and her other relatives with afghans and lovely embroidery.



The McLaughlin family when they came to Kinuso in 1932. Back row left to right: Mrs. Ethel McLaughlin, Crawford, Susann, Mr. McLaughlin (Father), Casey and Bob. Bottom left to right: Les (Doad), Stan (Ike), Don and Doug.

Whenever Grandma McLaughlin found time to reminisce about her past, she would say that she had had a life of adventure and enjoyment mixed with hardship.

For the most part her life has been that of one of the Canadian Pioneers who opened and developed the Canadian West. She died as she had lived, at the age of 94 years.

(The above is a write up about Mrs. McLaughlin from some of her friends, in Haney, B.C. on her 94th birthday).

Frank McRee

As told by Frank McRee

Frank was born to Joe and Anna (nee Chalifoux) on May 15, 1923, in Kinuso. Frank is the oldest of nine children. Frank went to school in Kinuso. When he left school he helped his father with the farming. He also worked for other farmers during the harvest season. He did some trapping, getting 3¢ for squirrel pelts.

Elizabeth Cunningham was born to Henry and Helen (nee Jackknife) on August 4, 1925, in Lac St.

Anne. She went to school in Jousard and later worked at Carrier's store in Jousard.

Frank started working for the railroad in 1942, as a seasonal section man. In the winter months he worked in sawmills for various people such as: Gib Rodney, Howard MacRae and Floyd Smith in High Prairie.



Frank and Elizabeth McRee on their Wedding Day, 1946, with Racheal Smith and Bertha Giroux.

Frank married Elizabeth on February 12, 1946 at Jousard. The wedding party then came by teams of horses to the reception in Kinuso. The horses and wagons were decorated with bells and ribbons of all colors. As they came to different points along the way, guns were fired into the air signaling the arrival of the wedding party. Frank and Elizabeth made their home in Kinuso.

In 1950, Frank became permanent section man for the railroad. He moved his family to Assineau, where they stayed for six years. He then moved back to Kinuso after being transferred.

Elizabeth passed away of cancer at the age of 36 on February 11, 1962. She left ten children, the youngest of which was 1½ years old.

Frank left the railroad in 1963, after working for the company for 21 years. He then worked for Don Stasow and later moved to Edmonton in 1967. In Edmonton, Frank worked for Wells Construction for seven years.

Today Frank is 56 years old and still resides in Edmonton. He is presently employed with Wilco Engineering.

Frank and Elizabeth's children:

Ruby lives in Kinuso and is presently Secretary for the Swan River Band. Ruby and Clarence have 2



Frank McRee family — 1978.

Back left to right: Debbie, Sharon, Frank, Freda.
Middle left to right: Verna, Helen, Ruby, Audrey.
Front left to right: Lloyd, Kenneth, Donald.

children: Preston and Claude.

Kenneth lives in Edmonton and is employed by Greenough Construction. Kenneth and Francis have 2 children: Glenda and Sandy.

Donald lives in Edmonton and is employed by Greenough Construction. Donald and Nora have no children.

Lloyd lives in Alexander and is employed by the Municipal District of Sturgeon. Lloyd and Dora have one child: Nicole.

Helen lives in Unity, Saskatchewan and is presently Manager of the Saan Store. Helen and Robert have one child: Cindy.

Debbie lives in Edmonton and is employed by the Alberta Government Telephones. Debbie and Gerald have one child: Jill.

Verna, Audrey and Sharon are single and all live in Pine Point, N.W.T. Verna is employed at the Pine Point Hotel, Audrey at the I.G.A. Store and Sharon at Comico Mines.

Freda lives in Kinuso. Freda and Marshall have one child: Lorraine.

Harry McRee Family

(told by Mrs. Harry McRee and written by daughter, Sophie)

Harry McRee, born in Austria (which is now Russia), arrived in Canada by ship in 1926. Left Montreal by train, travelling north, looking for work. His first stop was Lamont, Alberta, where he joined his brother Joe McRee. Here they worked for 50¢ a day harvesting. Later the two brothers travelled by train to Kinuso, Alberta, where they worked on the railroad.

Anna Kliszcz, born in Austria, arrived in Canada by ship in 1929. Left Montreal by train and travelled to Kinuso to join Harry.

From Kinuso, we travelled to Edmonton, where we were married. Now we would make our home in Kinuso.

We lived in the town of Kinuso for 2 years until we took up a homestead which is 3½ miles north of Kinuso. Now Harry quit the railroad and we moved out to the homestead.



Mr. and Mrs. Harry McRee. Their Wedding picture.

The kind of road we had to the farm, was a trail through the bush. We had one neighbor that lived $\frac{1}{2}$ mile away from us. Later in the years, more people came into the area. When we moved out to our homestead, we had brought with us: 2 cows, 2 pigs, 1 horse, and 1 dozen chickens. Our log house was not quite finished so we had a fire outside. While I was still at home in Russia, I heard stories about Canada. Some stories were nice, but others were scary! The story I didn't like was about the kind of people that were in Canada. These people were called Indians. They were mean and were out to kill, but were scared of fire.

An experience I had being out on our homestead for only a few days: Harry had to go into town so he left by horse, while I stayed home alone. Harry was longer than he should have been. Now, it was getting dark out, and I was getting scared. Sitting outside beside the fire, I seen these flash of lights in the bush here and there, thinking that someone was smoking. Pretty soon I heard this noise, sound like someone was talking some funny language. The more I thought about it, the bigger fire I made, thinking maybe it is those bad people, they are coming to attack me! Now Harry come home. By now I was so scared that I could hardly talk. Telling him my story that someone was talking and smoking in the bush all around me, "it must be those Indians! They came to attack me!" Just then the lights flashed and I said "there they are." Pretty soon Harry started to laugh, and told me what

it was. The lights flashing were fire flies and the noise was a little owl hooting.

So, then Harry asked me if I knew what the "Indians" looked like? I said no! So Harry said those people that were our neighbors when we lived in town are "Indians!" I said "those people!" I am not scared of them. They are my best friends. They help me in many ways. They teach me to talk English, take me out berry picking, and many other things. So to this day the Indians and I get along very well.

Our house was now finished and Harry had to go out to work, and I was alone. I found myself a job clearing land. I cleared an acre of land so that we could have a garden. In the spring I planted a garden. It grew very well and I was depending on it very much, until one day during the summer a bunch of stray horses came and destroyed it.

In the spring Harry and I cleared more land, so that we could sow a little grain for our animals. Now we had more cows, pigs, and horses.

Later in years we bought machinery that was pulled by horses.

Now we needed more room to live in, so we built a 3 room house.

Finally in 1940, we bought a John Deere tractor. This was our first tractor. Later we bought machinery that the tractor pulled.

As the years went by we bought more land and better machinery. Now we could get our work done faster and much easier.



Harry McRee family.

Left to right, Back: Terrace.

Lower row: Sloco, Mrs. McRee, Sophie, Mr. McRee and Zanny.

We had 4 children: Taras, Sloco, Zanny, and Sophie. Taras our oldest son, then another son Sloco, and youngest son Zanny, and 1 daughter Sophie.

Now the big problem was to send these small

children to school! Taras was the first to go to school. He rode a horse. Later Sloco started school so we got a buggy that a horse pulled. Now Zanny was ready for school. The 3 boys would go by horse or would sometimes walk.



Mrs. Harry McRee getting Zanny away to school on a pot bellied horse. Many remember seeing this little boy on his way to school.

Now the 3 boys are quite big. They have a small sister to take care of. During the summer the 4 children went to school by horse, and for the winter we built a small house in town where they stayed.

Years later the 3 boys quit school. Now Sophie was the only one going. We finally got a "School Bus," which was a team of horses and wagon. A few years later the roads were improved and we finally got a yellow school bus! Sophie rode on the bus for a few years until she decided to quit school.

Now everyone was out on the farm. There was a job for everyone. Now we built a new 5 bedroom home.

Years passed when Sloco was the first to find a bride. Sloco married Joan Labby. Joan was born and raised in Kinuso. Sloco and Joan made their home on a farm 5 miles north of Kinuso. Sloco does a little graveling in the summer and logging in the winter with his trucks. Sloco very much likes farming and is now one of the biggest farmers in Kinuso. Sloco and Joan have 3 children, 1 set of twin girls, Shirley and Sharon, and 1 son Carl.

The next to leave home was Taras. His bride was Dorthy Vance from Slave Lake, Alberta. Dorthy was born and raised in Slave Lake. Taras farmed but made

their home in the Village of Kinuso, where he owned and operated a trailer court partnership with Zanny. Taras and Zanny also have many acres under cultivation. They closed the trailer court down in Kinuso and Taras and Dorthy moved to High Level, Alberta, where they owned and operated another trailer court, again partners with Zanny. They stayed in High Level for many years until they sold out and moved to Red Deer, Alberta, where they made their home. Taras and Dorthy have 3 children, 2 sons Micky and Chris, and one daughter Judy.

Zanny, he never looked for a bride. He made his home on the farm which was our homestead. He farms and also was in business with Taras.

The last is Sophie, who got married to Leo Abel. Leo was born and raised in Northside, Saskatchewan. Leo and Sophie made their home in High Level, where Leo owned and operated a gravel truck. From High Level they moved to Edmonton where Leo was still trucking. In a few more years they made one more move. They bought a farm in Kinuso one mile south of Kinuso. Now they have mixed farming and Leo is still in the business of trucking. Leo and Sophie have 2 children, 1 son Marcel, and 1 daughter Sherry.

Joe and Anna McRee

Joe was born to Tony and Iva McRee on December 23, 1894 in Zwenol, Poland. Joe had two brothers, Harry and Fred and three sisters, Peggy, Mary and Elsie.

In 1911 Joe left Poland by boat and came to Canada. Arriving in Montreal he worked his way west to Alberta. In Lamont, Alberta he worked on Bill Huculak's farm for four years for 50¢ per day. In 1918 he arrived in Kinuso and went to work for the railroad. He also worked at Pierce's store.



Joe McRee family — 1964.

Back left to right: Frank, Jackie, Archie, Clarence.

Front left to right: Max, Delphine, Evelyn, Lena, Gordon. Seated is mother Anna.

In 1922 Joe married Anna, daughter of Jean Chretien (Iamsees) and Nancy Chalifoux. Anna was born September 10, 1903 in Kinuso. She had one brother, August. Joe and Anna made their home in Kinuso in a log house beside the railroad. Their first son, Frank was born here. Moving to a house near the railroad water tank, Joe worked as the water man and coal man. Their children, Max, Jackie, and Lena were born in this house.

Joe then moved his family north of Kinuso and began homesteading. Their son, Archie and daughter, Evelyn were born here. In 1936 they moved to Dick Rigg's farm where they farmed for six years. Clarence and Delphine were born here.

In 1942 they returned to their homestead and farmed there for 22 years. Their last child, Gordon, was born on the farm. Anna worked hard on the farm, also taking stooking contracts from other farmers.



Anna and Joe McRee with his Aunt Katherine Berehulka. Manitoba — 1962.

During the winter months Joe hauled freight to northern areas by horse team and in the early spring used a boat following the Athabasca River to Slave River and to Lesser Slave Lake.

Joe's brother, Harry, came over from Poland in 1926 to reside in Kinuso.

In 1962 Joe travelled to Manitoba for a happy reunion with his Aunt Katherine Berehulka whom he hadn't seen since she left Poland in 1908.

In 1964 Joe passed away, Anna sold the farm and moved into Kinuso where she lives today.

Their children:

Frank resides in Edmonton and has ten children: Ruby, Kenneth, Donald, Lloyd, Helen, Debbie, Ver-na, Audrey, Sharon and Freda.

Max resides in Edmonton and has eight children: Darlene, Charlene, Morris, Michael, Maxine, Melvin, Pearl and Lonnie.

Jackie resides in Edmonton.

Lena resides in Kinuso and has eight children: Roddy, Josephine, Leonard, Harold, Karen, Larry, Lee and Tara.

Archie resides in Slave Lake and has nine children: Vera, Judy, Edward, Marilyn, Lorraine, Gail, Brian, Johnnie and Arthur.

Evelyn resides in Kinuso and has three children: Donna, Diane and Lyle.

Clarence resides in Kinuso and has two children: Robin and Jocelyn.

Gordon resides in Kinuso and has one child: Naomi.

Delphine married Allen Benjamin, resides in Kinuso and had five children: April, Tony, Roland, Buddy and Jo-anne.

Arthur Mallard and Family

by Lorne Mallard

Early in the spring of 1923, my Dad and Mother, my sisters Nettie, Reta, Vera, and myself left for Empress, Alberta, and headed west. There were 3 other members of the family, 2 girls and 1 boy. They were all married by this time, so remained behind. We left Empress and travelled by covered wagon. We underwent many troubles before arriving in Kinuso late that same fall.



Elizabeth and Arthur Mallard with two of their children, Vera (Crood) and Lorne.

The first winter we were in Kinuso, we stayed with Sid Sawyer. My Dad homesteaded along Strawberry Creek west of Kinuso. He was offered a job at Field's Mill and worked there for a time. While we were there Mother cooked for about 30 men.

After a time we moved and lived in Kinuso just south of the school. Dad was caretaker of the school and also of the U.F.A. Hall.

Nettie met Clarence Dixon and they were married in High Prairie on September 17, 1926. Later they moved to Edmonton where Nettie lived until her death on February 26, 1976.

Reta met Jack Killeen. They were married in 1927. They lived on a farm 8 miles north of Kinuso. They raised a family of 8 children, 5 boys and 3 girls. Jack passed away in March 1947. Reta passed away on the farm on May 14, 1951.

Vera married Reg Croad in High Prairie on Jan. 14, 1930. They worked and lived on Mr. Rice's farm. Reg passed away in Vancouver in 1957. Shortly after the war, Vera moved to Edmonton where she lived until her death on Nov. 27, 1976.



Taken February 24, 1978 at Beth's Wedding.
Left to right: Lorne Mallard, Lee, Beth, Norma Mallard.

In her later years, Mother's health wasn't very good. She passed away on Jan. 13, 1937.

I joined the Army in 1941. I went overseas and served in Italy where I was taken prisoner. I spent a year and a half in a German prisoner camp. After I got out of the Army, I returned to the Kinuso area for a few years.

In his later years, Dad moved to Edmonton. He was living with Nettie at the time of his death on Dec. 29th, 1950.

I moved to Edmonton where I found work. Here I met Norma Scobie. We were married at Telfordville, Alberta on June 26, 1953. Only July 13, 1954, we were blessed with a daughter. We named her Elizabeth Georgina (Beth). On Feb. 24, 1978, Beth married Lee Babcook. They reside in Edmonton.

Norma and I also live in Edmonton. We celebrated our 25th Wedding Anniversary on June 26th, 1978.

Tom Mayne

Tom Mayne homesteaded on N.W. ¼ S12 T73 R10 W5, presently subdivided into several plots with the Swan River running across the middle of the quarter. South and west of the river being owned by Mr. Walter Kuhne. While across the river, acreages are owned by Les Clow, previous owner being Roy Davignon. The other parcel of land is owned by Harvie Shornack. The north side of these two parcels of land is the No. 2 Highway.

Tom was the owner of several horses and also owned a travelling stallion. Tom, being a bachelor, had Christmas dinner with his neighbors, the Oscar Lillo family for fourteen years.

There is a story told of Jack Killeen Sr., Charlie Kush, Tom Mayne, and possibly Curt McKinly being in a hotel, when Tom, jumping on his steak which had fallen to the floor, yelled, "Beller, damm you, I'm going to ride you anyhow."

Ignace Ernest Lebrun Merrier

(As told by Ernest Merrier)

Ignace Ernest Merrier was born July 28, 1919 to Marie Auger and Abasaton Lebrun.

Ernest was raised in the Trout Lake area and spent two winters in the Stony Point Mission in Wabasca. Rather than return to the mission he decided to work with his father on his trapline north of Wabasca. They would exchange their winter supply of fur at the Hudson Bay Trading Store in Trout Lake for food and supplies. As the store was closed after the trapping season ended, the people were forced to ration their food during the summer months. If supplies ran out, provisions were brought in from Wabasca by packhorse in exchange for tanned hides and mocassins.

Ernest recalls his first experience of the eclipse of the moon. It was in 1926 during the spring at Red River, Alberta. As the shadow passed over the community the people became very frightened thinking the world was coming to an end. It was during the same year (1926) that the Hudson Bay Company took over all the stores in the north.

In 1938 Ernest and his mother set out on foot for Grouard. While his mother stayed on in Grouard, Ernest continued on to High Prairie. It was in High Prairie that he saw his first train.

In 1941 the Recruiting Officer was in High Prairie and Ernest enlisted. He took his Base Training in Winnipeg for two months and Advance Training in Kingston, Ontario for 1½ months. From there he went to Ottawa and studied Poisonous Gases for 7½ weeks. Then it was back to Kingston where he guarded prisoners for a short time. From there he was sent to a large army camp in Borden, Ontario. Finishing his training he was sent to England where he spent two years.

While fighting in Italy he was badly injured and returned to a hospital in London, England. Unable to



Ernest Merrier standing with his mother Marie and Ralph Morden on the sleigh.

return to active duty, he decided to stay in England and worked as a Camp Attendant at the Officers Quarters.

In 1955 he returned to Whitefish Lake, Alberta to see his mother who was working as a housekeeper for Ralph Morden. From there he went to Grouard and worked with his friend Johnny Morris caring for the animals at the Grouard Mission.

In 1956 he married Doris Chalifoux and they had five children — Margaret Rose, Michael and Rita — presently living in Edmonton, Cecil — residing in St. Albert and Georginia — living in B.C.

After marrying, Ernest worked for Herbie Marks, a farmer in Big Prairie, for six years.

Ernest and his family then moved to High Prairie where he worked for 4½ years at Frank O'Brien's Sawmill — moving to B.C. and back to Alberta.

Ernest then came to Kinuso and worked for the NAR for 12 years as a track man. At the age of 60 he is now retired.

Adolph and Lillie Meyn

written by Steve Prichuk

I immigrated to Bruderheim in 1912, with my parents where we made our home.

In 1927, I took up a homestead at New Brook. I married Lillie Calvert in Lamont in 1932. We moved on to our homestead, and resided there till 1939. Due to Lillie's health, we left the homestead, and bought a piece of land next to the hamlet of New Brook.

In later years we sold the farm, and I was employed in various kinds of farm work, and construction work.

In 1954, we came to Kinuso looking for work. I saw Howard McRae but he didn't need any men just



Adolph and Lily Meyn.

then, but I learned that Gib Rogne was looking for men. I was hired by Gib to operate a D4 Cat. to skid logs at his mill. The saw-mill was up the Swan River at a place called Mile 14. I worked at this for three winters. During the summer months we worked on construction of roads to lookout towers for the forestry. This work covered many areas and lasted several years.

I also worked on seismic in 1957, and 1958, south of Kinuso, operating Gib's equipment.

I bought a lot in Kinuso in 1960. Here we set up our trailer. I kept working for Gib. till he sold out, while in Red Earth, on the north side of the lake.

After this, I found employment with Steve Prichuk; this was with heavy equipment, doing road construction work. I was a little nervous as this was my first experience of operating a "Big Cat." I stayed with this job for a couple of years. Then I returned to the bush to work for Lawrence Brassard for two winters.

I also operated George Gallagher's D4 Cat. skidding logs for Marvin Hunt. Later I found employment with the Dept. of Highways, being a trucker's helper at first, then on to operating a road grader. I stayed with this job from 1966 till my retirement in June of 1973.



Randy Meyn, 3rd Birthday. Sitting on his father's Cat.

We are still living in Kinuso, enjoying our retirement by doing a little fishing, and a little travelling, and also growing a lovely garden, and many beautiful flowers.

Jack and Mary Misco

Material submitted by Freddy Prichuk (nephew)

Jack came to Swan River with the land survey crew who surveyed from the Lake area to the 18th base line. Homer Johnston was the head of this survey, being head man of this whole area.



Jack and Mary Misco.

When Jack saw this piece of land which later was S.W. 16-73-9-W9th, he fell in love with it and told his partners, "This is where I'm going to stay and make my home". So he filed on this land, (one quarter) built a house and barn, and cleared and broke about 13 acres. He brought his wife Mary here to live, she was Fred Prichuk Srs. sister. She loved farming and stayed home with the "Cows" while husband Jack worked out. In this way by 1926 they built up a very prosperous little farm.

Mary was a very thrifty person, growing a big garden, producing their own eggs, butter, cream, their own meat, pork, chicken and beef. Practically living off the land.

When the survey was finished, and the railroad came through, Jack got a job as "Railroad Inspector", having his own private "Speeder" with cab, to travel up and down the tracks, inspecting for faults.

Later when there was no more need for this work, he went buying fish for W. M. Menzie, who had a big fish plant in Faust. This was only seasonal though so he farmed in between seasons.

In the spring of 1926, Homer Johnston again

returned to Kinuso with a party of surveyors and immediately sent a message to Jack that he was here and wanted to hire Jack as a guide. They were in Kinuso to survey for a road. This was unbelievable as up to now there was only a trail through virgin country. So Jack immediately hired on.

Jack was tired of farming by now, never really liking it; Aunt Mary was the farmer, so he sold his place to father (Fred Prichuk) and bought a small house in town (Kinuso) from Russ Patterson. He later sold this, I believe to the Chamber of Commerce for a badly needed Nurse's Home, and retired to Vernon, B.C., where he spent many happy years.

Mr. and Mrs. Mike Misco

Mike came from Russia at the time of the Russian Japanese War. He had escaped from the Army, came through Siberia, and somehow made his way to Halifax. Here he found employment in the fishing industry.

Mrs. Mary Misco came from Romania on a catleboat which took almost three months to get to Canada. She too landed in Halifax, where she had friends who met her and took her to their home for awhile. It was through these same friends that she met and later married Mike. They spent some time working in Halifax. Then they began to work their way westward. They lived for a time at Ft. William, then at Winnipeg, and St. Boniface, finally arriving at Edmonton. Mike worked at various jobs but mainly on the railway, and eventually worked his way to Kinuso where he helped build the station. He continued to work on the railway, and also fished on the lake. He worked at other odd jobs that came along e.g. building roads, etc.

When World War I broke out, Mike enlisted and went overseas.

Mary grew a large garden every year and after preserving enough for the family, sold and gave away the rest. She kept a large flock of geese. The "down" from these she made into down filled comforters, and these also found a ready made market among the townspeople.

After the War, Mike returned to Kinuso and took up his jobs where he left off. When World War II broke out, Mike again joined up for the duration.

Mike and Mary had two children, John and Annie. Both received their schooling at Kinuso. When John left school he helped his Dad in the fishing industry. John still goes fishing, but goes to Hay River to work on the Great Slave Lake during the summer months. In the winter, he works in the bush in the sawmills.

Annie met and married Harry Yarosh when he worked on the railway here. Harry was born at Opal, Alberta, not far from Edmonton. He grew up on a farm, so it was not surprising that he wanted to farm after he lived in Kinuso some years. He worked on the railway at first, saved his money and was able to purchase the Red and White store from Windsor Rice. Later he put up a coin laundry next to the store, which he still owns. But due to failing health, he sold the store to Gunther and Carol Specht. It is now known as "Carol's Confectionary".

Annie and Harry have four children:
Bonnie — lives at Rainbow Lake.
Janice — also living at Rainbow Lake.
Donald — lives in Edmonton.
Judy lives in Grande Prairie.

They are also the proud grandparents of two youngsters.

The Moger Family

Jacob Louis Moger was born in Iowa, U.S.A. in 1873. His wife, Emma Anderson, was born in Norway. She came to the U.S.A. in 1884. They were married in 1898. They moved from North Dakota to Medicine Hat, Alberta, in 1910. In 1924 they moved to Slave Lake. Then, in 1944, they moved to Kinuso.

Jacob passed away in 1950 and Emma passed away in 1951. They had five children; four girls and one boy.

Bertha Sloan Moody

My mother and father, Nell and Jesse Sloan came from North Dakota to Kinuso, Alberta in 1909. My dad had filed on a homestead a year or two before. Their homestead was ten miles south of Kinuso. They built a log house and put sods on the roof. They had three children when they moved up. As years went by they had nine more. I was the seventh child, I was born April 7, 1919 in their little log house. I wasn't very old when they moved into a bigger house which was made of logs also but the roof had shingles. It didn't leak like our old sod roofed house. The first memories I have of the new house was the stairs. They were a real novelty to me, I had to try them out. I got up alright but when I was coming down I ended up falling most of the way down. There were quite a few settlers around. A lot of them came from the United States, some of these people were relatives and friends of my parents.

There were quite a few natives north of Kinuso. Sometimes they would go by our place on the way to hunt in the Swan Hills, my dad sometimes would trade them vegetables and butter for some fresh meat and fish.

When I was old enough to go to school I went to a little one-room school house which was built about one and a half miles from home. They had a cast iron heater set up in the middle of the school. They only had one teacher from grades one to ten. My first teacher was Mr. Wetter, I went to this same school for ten years. Mr. Reed was teaching the year I finished school.

During these ten years things improved a little, they dug a well, built a barn for the horses, also they built a little house for the teacher to live in. There was no electricity or plumbing. The children had to get to school, walking, horseback, or by team. Some lived four or five miles away. We had lots of fun playing ball, skating if we could find a place to skate. I remember the year Miss. Thomas was teaching when it wasn't nice enough to play outside, we would push the desks against the wall and have a dance at noon hour. Our teacher had a little gramophone and some

pretty good records, that was our music. We had Sunday School in the school house for awhile, Esther Onstine and Marie Sloan were the main teachers. My aunt Marie had a little folding organ, she would bring it and play hymns, they taught us to sing. I remember one Sunday Aunt Marie and I pulled the little organ on a sleigh. Sometimes they made candy and brought it to Sunday school, we all enjoyed this. Our Christmas concerts were held in the school. When I was in my teen's they held dances in a log house Wilford George had built. They had moved away, and the house was quite large. It was different than it is now. I don't remember paying anything at the door, people took turns bringing the coffee, sugar and cream. The music was donated by anyone who could play an instrument. The ladies all brought lunch.

I married Bob Moody May 23, 1937, we were married at McLennon, before we got home it rained, there wasn't any gravel on the highway. My brother Hercel had to get out and dig the mud out of the wheels.

We stayed with my parents for a few weeks, then Bob went to Ashmont, Alberta where his parents lived. He got a team and wagon and drove from Ashmont to Kinuso. He gave the horses a few days rest, then we loaded everything we owned (which wasn't much) and headed out to Woking. It took us ten days to travel nearly two hundred miles. We only made about twenty miles a day. My brother Raymond came with us. There was a little log cabin on the homestead which was our home for about five years until we moved into a larger house made with jackpine logs.

We had nine children. Nellie born February 21, 1938, Walter November 9, 1939. Arthur August 31, 1941. Marjorie December 30, 1943. Jack February 8, 1948. Gordon June 23, 1953. Doreen November 7, 1955. Rose July 16, 1957, and Barbara on September 2, 1958. Walter passed away in March 1941.

We raised our family on our farm, as we call it now. There was a lot of hard work that went into proving up our homestead. Last fall we sold one of our quarters of land we had bought. We bought a trailer and had it moved into Rycroft, onto a lot we had bought there.

We still have our original homestead so if we get tired of living in town we can always go back to the farm. I doubt if we ever go back to live there as we are getting older and there is too much hard work involved in living on a farm.

I still think a farm is a great place to raise a family also if anyone feels they don't have enough to do, just get a homestead or buy a farm.

I Remember When

by Vera McLaughlin

The Moores, seemed to the people in the Town of Swan River as the centre of the Valley. I suppose it was because the men of the area, as we say, "got out logs," and built a Church, on land between our present cemetery and the valley road. This was a dedicated Methodist Church. Church services were held Sunday, and school was held on week days.

When I was around 7 or 8 years old, my Mother and Dad quite often went up the Valley to church which was held sometimes in the afternoon. Mother and Dad had an old team of cayooses (horses), which they named "Punch and Judy." These horses never went faster than a slow walk and a much slower trot, making our trip to church an all day event.

The people of the Valley were so very friendly and especially Mrs. Moore. The hospitality was something I have never forgotten. You never went but Mrs. Moore gave you "tea" after church, then a friendly get together and a wonderful big supper. The Moores milked a lot of cows, so had quarts of thick yellow cream. She always made a huge white cake with mounds of whipped cream on it.

This was something I looked forward to and perhaps was one reason I didn't mind going to church.

After supper we'd start home, taking hours with that old team of horses and wagon, but having such a "feeling of satisfaction."

Bella Morland

As told by Frank Sound

Bella Sound was born to Samual and Theresa (nee Giroux) in 1912 at Kinuso. As a young girl Bella went to school at the mission in Jousard. When she left school she began housekeeping for various people.

Ivan Morland moved to Kinuso from Clyde, where his parents were farming. When Ivan first moved to Kinuso, he worked in a logging camp.



Bella Morland with two of her children; Lavina and Gordon.

Ivan and Bella married in 1939 and made their home in Kinuso. Ivan then served in the Second World War. When he returned, they moved to Watino, where Ivan worked for a farmer. They lived in Watino for five years and moved back to Kinuso where Ivan worked for Imperial Lumber.

Bella lived in Kinuso until she passed away on February 18, 1974. Ivan and Bella had four children: Gordon, Lavina, Vernon and Glen.

Joe and Suzie Moyan

Joe was born to Sam and Isabell Moyan on July 26, 1930 in Meadow Lake, Saskatchewan. Joe was the youngest of six children with four brothers — Louis, Bill, Sam and Daniel and one sister — Mary.



Sam Moyan with his sons Joe and Sam.

The family did their share of moving. First from Meadow Lake to Frog Lake then to Keg River. From there they went to Enilda and in 1947 they arrived in Kinuso. Joe's father had done some trapping and farming but was retired and a pensioner when they arrived in Kinuso.



Joe and Suzie Moyan with their daughter Arlene at Lac. Ste. Anne Pilgrimage.

When they arrived in Kinuso Joe worked on Frank Sowen's farm. He also worked for the Forestry, did some logging in the Swan Hills area, some cat work at Red Earth and worked in the sawmill at Athabasca.

In 1957 Joe married Suzie, daughter of Frank and Racheal Sowen. Making their home in Kinuso, Joe worked for Imperial Lumber as a millwright until he moved to Edmonton in 1970.



Isabell Moyan with her grandchildren.

In 1971 Joe passed away. His wife, Suzie, still resides in Edmonton with their eight children — Arlene, Shirley, Beverly, Sharon, Karen, Kenny, Kelly, Randy and one grandchild, Christopher.

David and Catherine Myron

by daughter, Coreen

David McKenzie Myron was born in Shettleson, Glasgow, Scotland, March 19th, 1894.

He joined the Royal Navy in 1914, and served as a "Wireless Officer" on board several mine sweepers, three of which were sunk. Incidentally, David never did learn to swim.

In 1924, David emigrated to Canada. His aunt and uncle, Mr. and Mrs. James Turner, and my father's two cousins, Tom and Allen, had already come. David's aunt and uncle have passed on, and cousin Tom and his wife Helen now live in the Pembina Lodge in Westlock, Alberta, and Allen and his family farm the old home home farm at Fawcett, Alberta.

When my father first came to Canada, he stayed with his aunt and uncle, and worked for a Mr. Reed in Jarvie, Alberta. Now, because of his experience as a wireless operator, he was soon employed in the Dunvegan Yards, near Edmonton, in 1925, with the E.D. and B.C., later named the N.A.R.

My father worked at Peace River, Smith, Whitelaw, Berwyn, and Westlock, before coming to Kinuso.

My father was from a family of four. However, the

twins died when they were very young. His brother stayed behind and lived in Southampton, England, until his death.



Mr. and Mrs. Dave Myron.

Catherine Bruce Matheson Myron was born in Plutneytown, Wick, Caithness, Scotland, on August 24th, 1897. After she grew up, she moved to Glasgow, and worked as a cashier-hostess in a restaurant. It was there she met my father.

My mother, Catherine, soon came over to Canada, with Grandmother Myron (Mrs. George Myron). My parents were married in Edmonton in 1925, and lived there until 1928. It was at this time my grandmother passed away.

My mother was from a family of four brothers and one sister. Today her brother Willie lives in Vancouver, B.C., and her other brother lives in Wick.

With the exception of my uncle in Vancouver, and my father's cousins in Westlock and Fawcett, the rest of my relations are scattered over England and Scotland. Our ancestry goes back to the days of the Spanish Armada, and an invasion from the Scandinavian countries. As a result my relations on my mother's side are dark haired, and dark skinned on one side, and are blonde haired on the other.

The name "Myron" is thought to have been "Myroni" of Spanish or Italian descent.

Mr. and Mrs. Myron lived in Kinuso until Mr. Myron's retirement in 1959. They then moved to Victoria, B.C. Mr. Myron passed away that same year.

He never lived to collect his first retirement cheque.

Mrs. Myron stayed in Victoria, coming back shortly before Coreen and Peter were married in November, 1959.

Mrs. Myron worked for Harry Walker and Benny Boisvert in the early days. Then after Dave's death, she returned to work for Benny Boisvert, then Art Boisvert until nine months before her death in September of 1972.

Pat O'Shea

by wife, Inga



Pat O'Shea.



Pat O'Shea.

In 1964, I married Patrick J. O'Shea. Pat was born Jan. 22nd 1897, at Dungarban, Waterford, Ireland. I believe Pat came to Kinuso in 1927. He made his home with the McLaughlin's. He always said that they were like his parents.

Pat worked around Kinuso (town) at different jobs; the Hotel, Nurses Home, School, and later owned a second hand store. Everyone liked Pat, as he was a friendly and jovial person.

After we were married we moved out to the farm where we stayed until Pat's health failed.

After Pat's death, I moved back to Vancouver where I am close to my daughter and grandchildren.

Olsen Family

In September of 1919, the government moved outfits north to put up hay after the drought in Southern Alberta. This brought Levi Olsen, Andy and Art Lund, Scotty Dephew and Claus Tranchill to Kinuso. Kathleen (Levi's wife) came to cook for them.

The boys decided that the peoples' blood in the north must have been in pretty bad shape. They drank a lot of furvium which was supposed to have been a blood tonic (9% alcohol).



Mrs. Fern Olsen's Family — 1977.

Moving back to Raymond, Alberta was quite an ordeal with horses and machinery all in one box car. The train jerked so much that the boys spent most of their time in the wagon box as they felt safer there.

They nearly starved their horses and cows that winter. The hay had frozen before it was cut. (Andy said it was only a cough and a poop and it was gone.)

Levi rented the Fenske place intending to come back. Kathleen, his wife, didn't want to, so Grant moved up, bringing with him his wife Fern and two little ones, Louis and Merle, from Raymond. They arrived at the Fenske place on April 13th, 1920 to find only the top wire of the fence above the snow, and June 1st brought another snow storm.

The north end of the district was always the last to get threshed and it was Christmas time before it was finished. The engine used for threshing was small and one year it took a week to thresh 200 bushels of barley. As well as the threshing crew, the lady of the house usually had all the bachelors at meal time. A lot of potatoes were grown then, and neighbors would help each other at digging time. That was the way they threshed too.

Grant worked on the forestry at Slave Lake in 1924, a job he really enjoyed. The winter of 1928 and 1929, Grant moved into town and ran the livery barn so the kids could go to school. By now Allen, Jean, Andy and Stanley had joined the clan. They moved back to the Fenske place in the spring.

Grant got a homestead east of town and built a log house, and in May 1931, he moved his family in. He passed away in September of that same year. He was predeceased by three of his children, Dorothy, Fredrick and John Grant.



Mrs. Fern Olsen's 80th Birthday.

The children walked up the railway tracks to school in all kinds of weather. One morning it was 57 below and most of the morning was spent in the water tank house warming up before going the rest of the way to school. Faithful old dog, Towser, should have had a diploma for he never missed a day of school.

The river often overflowed its banks, three times in twelve days in May of 1936. A lot of fun was had paddling around in the water trough or anything that would float.

Merle got married in 1939 and moved to High Prairie. Louis was away working, and Allen, Jean, and Charley (Merle's husband) joined the army. In later years Andy joined the airforce and spent some time in Egypt. In 1966 Fern got a little house in Hanna where she now lives, still growing a wonderful garden. Louis lives in Ft. McMurray, Merle in Kinuso, Allen in Prince George, B.C., Jean in Cessford, Alta., Andy in Squamish, B.C., and Stan in Kinuso.



1946. Stan Olsen with 26 lb. fish caught in Eula Creek.

Mom still lives in Hanna at nearly eighty-two and still grows a big garden and many house plants, as well as making quilts, stuffed animals (for her about 34 grandchildren and 2 greats) and many other things.

Louis is still in Ft. McMurray and has his own business there.

Allen lives in Prince George where he is a building contractor and carpenter.

Jean and husband still live on the prairie in summer but have been going to Arizona for the winter for



Stan Olsen's family: Todd, Scot, Caren.

several years.

Andy is on an island off the coast of B.C. working for B.C. Tel.

Stanley moved to Squamish, B.C. in 1972 where he does carpenter work.

Esther and Jimmie Onstine and Family 1919

submitted by Esther Onstine

In the early days, 1907-8-9, the Cupps', Posey, and Sloan families moved from North Dakota, U.S.A. to Alberta, and the Swan River Valley. We were coming too, but it was April, 1919, before we finally arrived in the Valley.

My husband (Jimmie) was closely related to Howard Posey; Howard's father was an Uncle of Jimmies; George Cupps was Howard's grandfather, and Jesse Sloan's wife was Howard's Aunt (his mother's sister), so that was the reason that we came.

In those years, southern Alberta was dried out, and feed was scarce. The Government offered to ship our stock and machinery up to the "Big Reserve" at Hobema where the grass was 2 and 3 feet high.

We came that far and stayed there for awhile, then came up to Swan River, and stayed with Mr. Cupps in the Dykeman house until he died. We then moved back to the States to Washington and stayed there for a couple of years with Jim's folks. When we came back we bought the Howard Posey farm with the Dykeman house on it. After awhile we homesteaded land up Anderson Creek a mile or so. We farmed and lived in the Dykeman house for over 30 years. While we were there we did a lot of repairing and renewing; we put in a couple of new windows, a new door and fixed the upstairs so it was livable, and put new roofing on.

After all those years of farming, Jim's health began failing, so we left the farm and moved 2½ miles east of Town to Don Wilton's house. We stayed there for 2½ years then into Town where Jim passed away Sept. 17th, 1960.

After I moved into Town, I had a log house built across the street from the Walker house, but later my son Keith and I bought the big house down on the north-east corner of town. After awhile I sold my share to Keith, and he sold to "The Lorentzen's". It had been built from lumber from the Red and White Store belonging to "The Vanderaegens."

Jim and I had a family of 6 children — Myrl and Muriel, twins, Roy, baby Clayton who died when he was 2½ months old, Norman, and Keith. Myrl and Muriel — Born January 21st, 1918, before we came to Swan Valley. They grew up and got their schooling in the Valley. Myrl now lives at Wildwood, Alberta, and Muriel, married a man by the name of Toews. She has lived about 30 years near Chilliwack, B.C.

Roy was born March the 7th, 1919, Roy married Georgina Hologate and they have a Motel at Cache Creek.

Clayton was born January 19th, 1922, lived only 2½ months.

Norman was born July 9th, 1924, in Colville,

Washington, U.S.A. now lives in Edmonton, Alberta.

Keith born in High Prairie, and grew up in Kinuso, and still makes his home here.

I now, in 1979, make my home in Pleasant View Lodge, where I am happy and comfortable, and where my children can visit me. I make a trip down to Kinuso to visit my many friends once in awhile.

Irene (Furnald) Phillips

Submitted by Irene (Furnald) Phillips

I (Irene) came with my family: mother and dad, two brothers, Ray and Vern, and one sister Claris, to Swan River in 1921. We made the trip by train and "O, What a rough trip that was". We arrived at 2 a.m. in the morning and we didn't have any idea where we were going to stay the night. But, she says that we loved every minute of it.

My father and brother Ray came first, to make hay and ship it out to dried out areas as so many men did at that time. The country looked so good to them that my father decided to move his family right up. WHICH HE DID RIGHT AWAY.

By that time the townsite was formed, so he and my brother Ray built a "Blacksmith Shop", on the front street where Bob Jordon's garage is now situated.

After running this shop for a year or two, dad got itchy feet, so we all moved to the States (U.S.A.) and picked fruit. She says that she thinks it was about five years. Then the family moved back to Black Diamond, Alberta.

I (Irene) married on my mother and dad's wedding anniversary, December 4th, 1931. We lived in Calgary for a time.

In 1940 my husband and I moved to Victoria, B.C. and lived there for five or six years. Then in 1946 we moved from Victoria to Sooke, B.C., which is also on the Island.

I lost my father, March 20th, 1937, and my mother the day after, March 21st, 1937. My husband passed away January 1969.

I have eight grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren. I am now 75 years of age, and I still enjoy my home and garden on this beautiful Vancouver Island.

The Archie Plante Family

After buying Mr. and Mrs. Sandman's farm, Archie and Aurore Plante moved to Kinuso from Jossard in 1961, with eight children:

Hedy — married, with two children, residing in St. Albert.

Donald — married, one child, residing in Whitecourt.

Frederick — married, one child, residing in Grande Prairie.

Georgette, married, two children, residing in Lethbridge.

Pierre — married, residing in Grovedale.

David — married, two children, residing in Kinuso.

Lillian — married, two children, residing in Slave

Lake.

Diane — single, still living at home.

After a few years upon their move to Kinuso, they had two other children, Lucille and Doris, who are still living at home.

Archie and his family moved to Grande Prairie in 1972, leaving David to look after the farm.

David was born in Westlock, as his parents were living then at Vimy, Alberta. He was 6 years old when his family moved to Kinuso, after which he attended school in Kinuso until his parents moved to Grande Prairie. Then he looked after the farm. Two years later, he met Suzanne Dubé, from Jossard. They were married in 1975. In 1976, they had their first child, a boy, and in 1979, a second son. Apart from farming David has also been driving school bus north of Kinuso for two years.

The History of the Posegate Family

I (Alyce), was born in Newcastle-On-Tyne, England, and came to Canada, with my parents, when I was two years old. We lived in B.C. where my father was employed on the boats that plied the Okanagan Lakes. In the winters he worked in the coal mines at Fernie, Natal, and Cranbrook. Later we moved to Medicine Hat, where I grew up. In 1933 I married Charles Laight, and went to live on a farm near Three Hills. I was green as grass about farming but willing to learn. My husband was very interested in politics and became involved in the New Social Credit movement. Returning from a meeting one night, we ran into a blizzard, and were trapped for several hours. Cars in those days did not have heaters, so my husband caught a severe chill, from which he never recovered.

During the two years I was married, my folks moved to Driftpile to homestead. So after the funeral my father took me back with him. I was quite taken with the country, although it rained a little almost every day. That year the lake had been very high and it inundated many miles of the railroad so, for a while the train could not operate. I went out on the first train after the lake went down for the trains to travel sufficiently. Even so, the brakeman went ahead of the train in a boat, testing the rails; a very slow process. I have several pictures taken on that trip. One, of the train rounding a curve near Widewater, completely surrounded by water; it looked like a ship, with the smoke coming from the stack and cars following. There's another view, taken from the back of the train, looking down on what should be the tracks, but instead is a large spruce tree floating along.

I returned to Driftpile several times to visit my folks, and on one of those visits, I met Frank Posegate. He had moved up with his parents from High River, Alberta, in 1934. They had a homestead in the Valley, too, but were better off than most of the residents of that time. Originally Mr. and Mrs. Posegate, had come from Nebraska and Oklahoma; they were farmers and lived near High River.

Frank learned the art of being a cowboy, being employed on ranches and taking part in rodeos for

several years. He became a good ranch hand and was foreman of the Round T. and the Bar U. Later when the Peace River held more promise than the drought stricken prairies, they moved to Driftpile. They had planned to go farther west but when they saw the good soil and lush grass for the cattle, also the abundance of wild game and fish, with so many kinds of wild berries, they remained at Driftpile.

In April of 1937, Frank and I were married and went to Calgary. He had many friends among the cowboys and was anxious to return to his old stamping ground. He was promised a job guiding in the Kananaskis area. Unfortunately, I was taken very ill with pleuresy and confined to hospital for nearly three weeks. About that time the job went to another guide.

We went to nearly all the rodeos that summer and Frank rode at all of them, sometimes winning and sometimes not. I had never seen a rodeo before and I found it fascinating. There was a wonderful comradeship among the cowboys in those days. The ones who made money usually helped out those who were not so lucky. They worked very hard to improve their riding. It's a very hazardous life, but they loved it. I never saw a cowboy abuse a horse but they, themselves took many spills and injuries.

Later on we received word that Frank's dad was not so well, so we returned to Driftpile to help with the haying and harvesting for both his dad and mine. We then decided to stay in the Valley.

In March of 1938, our first child was born; a son whom we called Burl. Next year a daughter came and we called her Corrine. Bertha, Claudia and Dennis followed in that order.

When schooling became a problem for our children, we moved to Kinuso. During the years the children were growing up, Frank still liked to ride broncs. He went to High Prairie and other rodeos in this part of the country. In 1965 he decided to participate in Kinuso's Annual Affair and entered a wild horse race. He was trampled by a horse and spent several weeks in hospital. His leg had been shattered so he had to give up farming; we then moved to the town of Kinuso. In time he left off using the crutches and with the aid of a cane, was able to work for the town.

In early 1970 we learned he had cancer of the lungs and in April he passed away. I was very lonesome so became active in the affairs of the community. I belong to the Sr. Citizen's Club. I serve on the Alberta Housing Board and am involved in the United Church, serving on the Board and as a member of the United Church Women's group.

* * * * *

Burl Posegate, grew up and got his education, in Kinuso. He married Elma Goulet from Salt Prairie, Alberta. They have three children: Daisy, Leon and Tereasa. Together, they have a very successful farm, south of Kinuso. Burl also owns and operates Caterpillar Tractor.

* * * * *

Corrine, married Jack Stokes, from Enilda, Alberta. They live in Peace River, Alberta. They have four

children: Timmy, Debbie, Joey and Denise.

* * * * *

Bertha, married Gerald Potter from Faust, Alberta. They live in Watson Lake, Yukon Territory, where Gerald runs a good business selling 'Trailors'. They also have four children: Tara, Wendy, Darcy and Brent.

* * * * *

Claudia, married Robert Cundal from Mannville, Alberta. They live in Kinuso, where Claudia works in the Kinuso School as a 'Teacher-aid'. Their children are: Michelle, Robbie and Corey.

* * * * *

Dennis, married Nancy Cunningham, from Warbug, Alberta. Nancy suffered a nervous breakdown and passed away after the birth of their baby, so Dennis and Ricky came to live with me. After a couple of years, Dennis married Elaine Olsen and they had a daughter, Rhonda. They returned to Saskatchewan, but a couple of years later he returned to Alberta.

* * * * *

Ernest and Vinnie Posegate

Ernie and Vinnie grew up on farms in the High River-Turner Valley area. When Ernie was a young man he worked on ranches around there. Breaking horses, branding, haying, feeding stock in winter.

When the first World War broke out, Ernie enlisted and went overseas. When the war ended he remained behind for several months, helping to identify and rebury the dead. He returned to High River and after spending awhile with his folks, he again went to work on the ranches.

He and Vinnie were married in Calgary in 1940 and lived for about a year in Longview. In 1932 or '33, Ernie's folks had moved to Driftpile. They had purchased two quarters of land in the valley. When the second World War broke out, they found it increasingly difficult to get farm help. Ernie and Vinnie purchased a farm next to them and also moved to Driftpile. Ernie was then able to help them. Ernie's parents later retired and bought a house in Millerville next to their son Burl and family.

Around 1948, Ernie's health began to fail a little, so they sold the farm and moved to Kinuso. He drove taxi for awhile. He then purchased a van and began bringing youngsters from Swan Valley in to the Kinuso school. I believe this was the first school bus in the valley.

In 1951, Ernie was appointed pound keeper. He was active in the Canadian Legion. When the Tabernacle was built, Ernie helped to build that. Both he and Vinnie had been active in the church for some time.

In 1956 they moved to Turner Valley and purchased a small acreage. They milked a few cows and raised chickens. Although Vinnie was handicapped from having polio as a child, she could still do an amazing amount of work. She grew great vegetable and flower gardens, milked cows and raised chickens,

turkeys, etc., through the years. She also did a lot of handicrafts.

When Ernie got his war pension, they gave up milking cows and raising chickens. Ernie continued helping the farmers in that area at odd times, haying etc.

In 1968, he suffered a heart attack and died. Vinnie sold the acreage and bought a home for herself in High River, where she still lives.

Bernard Potskin

Bernard came to Kinuso from Fort Assiniboine in 1915, bringing his wife, daughter Louise, father Paul and brother Ben.



Bernard Potskin.

Bernard was an expert trapper and hunter. He also had a small farm with a few horses and cattle, and he also worked for the forestry. Bernard and August Chalifoux would haul food and supplies by pack horses to the tower men in House Mountain.

Bernard was well-known for his expert abilities in tracking. In 1920, a tower man at House Mountain quit and ran away from his job. The police, forest rangers and dogs searched for 2 weeks, but could not find him. They came and asked Bernard and August Chalifoux's help in finding him. This fellow did not want to be found, because he left very little trail to follow. Leaving no tracks, he would jump from rock to rock, over wind falls and he circled House Mountain twice. Bernard picked up his trail by the nail marks on the rocks made from his boots. He also found mushrooms that were picked and the skin of a porcupine which indicated that the fellow ate it raw, as there was no campfire made nearby. Bernard and



August Chalifoux and Bernard Potskin, camping after delivering supplies to the tower man Lou Foley in House Mountain.

August tracked him for two weeks and found him alive near Fort Assiniboine.

Another incident was when a 15 year old boy was lost when he went hunting deer north of Grouard. His family, friends and the police were out looking for him but failed. They came and asked Bernard for his help in finding the boy. As there were many tracks made by the searchers, it took awhile for Bernard to get on the trail of the lost boy. Bernard tracked him for 10 days, and found him dead in the bush. He had accidentally shot himself.

One other incident . . . this fellow went out hunting on Deer Mountain and died there. Bernard and August tracked him for about one week and found him.



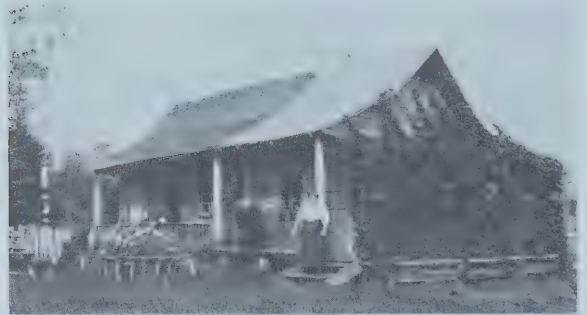
Joe Chalifoux, Louise Sound and her father Bernard Potskin.

Bernard lived with his daughter Louise, and her husband August Sound, until the time of his passing. He passed away at House Mountain while on a hunting trip with August Chalifoux and Paul Sowan. He wasn't feeling well, but insisted that he go hunting instead of staying at his hunting cabin. Bernard and August went their own ways to go hunting. When August and Paul returned to the cabin Bernard was not in yet. After dark the horse came back alone. In the morning August and Paul back-tracked the horse and found Bernard dead from a heart attack. They went to Kinuso and got the police and other men to carry him back for burial.

Fred Prichuk Sr.

Fred came to Canada from the Ukraine in 1909. He

worked on the railway from Winnipeg to Alberta, from southern Alberta to Fort McMurray. About 1913 he was employed in the coal mines around Lethbridge, Diamond City, Commerce, etc. There he met widowed Mrs. Gudlin, who ran a boarding house. She had four children. They were married in 1916.



Fred Prichuk's old farm house, Aunt Mary Miskow in picture — 1925.

In 1925, Fred went to Kinuso to visit his sister and brother-in-law Jack Miskow. The train arrived at 2 a.m. He stepped off the platform to walk uptown and landed up to his knees in a mud hole. He stumbled up the street to the hotel, where a dim light was burning. He knocked on the door and asked for a room. Mr. Whitecotton told him to take the lantern, go upstairs along the hall where there was a vacant room on the right. Next morning at breakfast he proved to be the only guest, and the two girls who served him were Myrtle and Vera Whitecotton.

When he went outside after breakfast he met Mike Miskow going to the Post Office for his mail. He took Fred up to his house and furnished him with a pair of gum boots, after which they then walked the five miles to his sister's home. Fred said he'd never seen such mud in all his life. There was no road, just a trail, so it took them most of the day to get there.

When they reached Eula Creek there were two planks tied up at the bank by a wire, they used this contraption to cross over on.



Fred Prichuk and Frank Gudlin (stepson) plowing up first ten acres.

Fred laughed and called them the good old days. While visiting, he and his brother-in-law went fishing in the creek. He killed one fish with a club, the fish were spawning at the time so the creek was full of

them. After seeing so many fish and lovely tall grass he figured this must be good country and he wanted to move here. He bought a quarter of land from his brother-in-law with 12 acres broke on it.

In February of 1926 he moved his family here with his settler's affects in a freight car, consisting of a team of horses, one cow, a sleigh and wagon etc, as well as household necessities. That spring they cleared another 10 acres and added a wing onto the house.

Fortunately for Fred the highway was surveyed to go past his place. His wife fed the highway crew for all that summer. Mr. Johnson was the foreman of the crew. Fred cut hay and sold it to the crews and also furnished barn space for their teams. He continued to sell hay to the crews for about two years at three dollars a load.

Fred worked hard through the years and was able to acquire another quarter of land.

Fred retired in 1967, and purchased the Doug McLaughlin house in town, where he lived until he passed away.

Fred's daughter, Florence, was six months old when they moved to Kinuso. She attended the Eula Creek school, and later the school in Kinuso. She was in grade nine when her mother passed away in 1942 during the second World War. She worked at home for three years until her father remarried. She went to work at the store in Driftpile, then in Faust for two years for the Sandman family.

Later she went with the Bajer girls to seek employment in the city. She found work with a family who were very good to her, they assisted her in getting her Nurse's Aide training. They had thought of getting her into the Navy but by the time she was through that course, she would have been too old for the Navy, at least for the Wrens. So she took her Nurse's Aide in Calgary. She worked for one year in Vegreville, then returned to Calgary to work in the crippled children's ward at the Red Cross Hospital (since renamed for eight years).

In 1962 she married William (better known as Bill) Stern. He was a painter by trade and still practices this business. Florence and Bill moved back to Kinuso in 1968, with their two children, Sharon and Scott.

The History of Freddy and Rose Prichuk and Family 1926

submitted by Freddy Prichuk

I was born in Commerce, Alberta. At that time it was a nice little mining town of about 1200 people. But the work slowed down so father moved us to Diamond City when I was 2 years old; it was only a mile and a half from Commerce. I went back to visit my birthplace but there was not a thing there except farms and a "slag pit" which was full of slag left over from the mine.

Mining was becoming seasonal, the work was mostly in the winter, so Father worked on farms in the summer but it was all irrigation and you had to wear "gum boots" which Father didn't like.

About that time, Father was getting tired of working for other people so he decided to get some land of his own. He made a trip to Kinuso (Swan River) to visit his brother-in-law Jack Misco and his brother Mike. I think Mike talked him into buying here. He landed here in the middle of the night in his best blue serge suit and fancy oxfords because the south of the Province was sunny and warm with the dust blowing. When he got off the train and finally got to the Whitecotton Hotel he had to wade through 3 feet of snow, 6 inches of water under that, and 6-8 inches of mud under that.

The Hotel was a big building with a coal-oil lamp in the window facing the station. When he entered, there was no one in sight, so he called out. Finally someone answered from up above and told him to climb the stairs and take the first room he came to with the door open, and no one occupying the bed. The next morning he was served breakfast from a small 10 year old girl, with long red hair, which in later years became his neighbor.

After breakfast, he was directed to Mike Misco's place, and he outfitted himself with a pair of rubber boots, and then walked out to Jack Misco's farm, 6 miles east through a bush trail.

Jack was anxious to sell his farm by this time as he never liked farming. His wife Mary, who was Fred's sister was the farmer. He made a deal to buy the farm for \$2000.00, \$3.00 down and \$300.00 a year till it was paid for. In 1926, father moved us up. Mother, my half-sister Mary and myself came down on the train. Father and half-brother, Frank Goodlun, came on a freight car, bringing a team of horses, 1 bull, some chickens (all miners kept chickens) 1 wagon, no cows because there were some cows on the place, 1 plow, 1 set harrows and their furniture. There were harrows, disc, and binder on the farm and 13 acres under cultivation.

There was a new 2 room school in "Town" at this time but it was 6 miles away so I was boarded for a time at Misco's, and later at Helmers. When I grew older and the road was passable I bought a horse for \$15.00 which I rode or drove to school till I quit.

Between my school years and War years I worked at home. The only real cash I got was for fighting fire for the Forestry. Father set his goal at clearing and breaking his farm all up. This he accomplished before he retired.

When World War II broke out in 1939, about 10 of us guys enlisted at the same time. I enlisted in the 5th Armored Division and was overseas for 5 years, returning Oct. 1945.

I married Rose MacIlhatton in Glasgow in 1945. Rose was born in Scotland, raised in Ireland, and came back to Scotland.

When the war ended and I was discharged, I looked things over and decided to come back to Kinuso and get some land of my own to farm. The first night, arriving home, I stayed at the Whitecotton Hotel. The next morning there was an old white-haired gentleman sitting in the lobby, so I struck up a conversation with him. He could see that I had just arrived home from the "War," so he asked me what I

was going to do now. I told him that I'd like to go farming on my own. He asked, where? I said "There was a school quarter a few miles up the Valley, but I didn't think it was open for homesteading." He said he was with the V.L.A. and here to help soldiers returning, and if I wanted it, to make out an application. He had the forms with him so I applied right there. A few weeks later I got word that the land was mine if I wanted it.

When the War Brides could come to Canada to join their husbands, Rose came to meet me. After staying at home for a short time, I started all over again, cutting down trees, grubbing stumps and clearing my land. Looking back I wonder "Why?"

Rose and I built a nice home on this farm and here six children were born to us; Charlie, Theresa, Michael, Ann, James and William. All were born in High Prairie Hospital.

CHARLES — married Lois Snippa, who has three boys, Darcy, Garrett and Derek. Charlie is a Salesman for a Chemical Firm related to the Oil Industry.

THERESA — is a teacher with a B.E. Has two children and teaches in Faust.

MICHAEL — Oil driller presently working in the North Sea and living in Edinburgh, Scotland. Married to Katherine Cooper.

ANN — Registered Nurse, soon to be working in Wabasca.

JAMES — apprenticing for an Electrician in Grande Prairie. Is married to Judy Yarosh.

WILLIAM — is presently living at home in Kinuso.

The Mike Prichuk Family

by Son Steve

Mike Prichuk was born near the Russian border of Poland, Sept. 8, 1888. He came to Canada in 1909, this in itself proving near fatal, as during the voyage the ship's boiler blew up, causing several fatalities. The survivors including Mr. Prichuk took to the lifeboats, being there from sunrise to sunset before being rescued, and in turn being taken to England. Two weeks later, he sailed safely to Canada going directly to a sister in Winnipeg.

From there he was employed in logging camps in Ontario for several years. Then back to Winnipeg where he was employed as a compaction roller operator. The top salary at that time was 25¢ an hour.

In 1915, he came further west to Edmonton being employed in lumbering for awhile. Later in that same year he came to Kinuso, joining his sister and brother-in-law, Jack Miscow, helping them on their homestead.

In 1916, he filed on a homestead for himself as well as taking employment during the construction of highway No. 2 along Lesser Slave Lake (southside).

The nearest land titles office was in Grouard; this meant about a 35 mile walk down the railroad track (being the shortest way), to about where the town of Enilda stands today, then north about 10 or 12 miles down the trail to Grouard, file on the homestead and walk back to Kinuso.

He and another fellow traveller developed a uni-

que way of walking down the track. They would hold a small pole between them and walk on the rails, thus relieving their legs of the continuous strain of walking the ties.

After returning from Grouard, he began the task of clearing land and putting up some buildings. There was a good stand of pine on the sand hills part of the homestead. So Mike and his brother-in-law Jack Miscow, cut some of this for railway ties as the railway would buy all that they could cut. They also cut telegraph poles of green tamarak obtained from the swamps in that area.



Mike and Effie Prichuk's marriage picture — February 15th, 1925.

On February 15, 1925, he married Effie Semeniuk of Winnipeg. During the years four children were born to them: Mary, Steve, Peter, and Usta.

In November of 1929, he was accidentally shot for a moose causing him to have a partly disabled hand. A call went out for an aircraft believed to be the first to land in Kinuso. Dr. Rodgers, a lady Dr. stationed at Kinuso, dressed his wounds, and flew with him to Edmonton, where he was taken to the University Hospital.

After his recovery, his wife's brother Bill Semeniuk, helped him to clear more land. The small trees and brush were slashed, and the big trees ringed. Later fire would be set to the brush piles.

Mike would also hire local natives to help clear



Rescue plane that took Mike Prichuk to hospital in Edmonton.

land. They would bring their families and set up tents by the creek, spending the summer there.

Money was scarce so they would receive part of their pay in cream, eggs, butter, potatoes, and vegetables. Effie was a good homemaker and cook, so homemade bread was available for the natives too.

Mike was a strong supporter of Kinuso, and believed it had a great future. He helped Harry Walker finance a small store business.

He was one of the first to operate a threshing outfit that was brought into this area, by Dick Riggs. The machine was new, on skids, and powered by a stationary engine. That same machine is still in this area, though the march of progress eliminated its usefulness.



Mr. and Mrs. Mike Prichuk, Usta, Pete and Steve.

Mike was a very progressive farmer and with the years acquired a fine farm and a comfortable living until his death Sept. 3, 1966.

After the passing of her husband, Effie continued to live on the farm with her son Steve.

In 1968, Steve built a house on his sister Mary and brother-in-law Leo Lillo's farm, closer to town. He was away on construction work much of the time, so didn't want to see his mother stay alone on the farm with no neighbors near. This way she could be close to her daughter. She lived there with Steve for several years, then moved to Grande Prairie where the youngest daughter Usta, lived. Here she could enjoy the company of her grandchildren. She lived here until her death on May 18, 1974 at the age of 82 years.

Peter Prichuk

Peter, the youngest son of Mike and Effie Prichuk, was born June 1, 1930. Peter received his education at the Eula Creek and Kinuso schools. During his growing up years, he helped his dad with the farming. After he left home, he was employed by Imperial Lumber for several years. He also worked in the lumber camps and on different construction jobs. In the early 1960's, Peter moved to Prince George, B.C., where he is employed at a mill that cuts lumber to size for furniture manufacture. He lives in a trailer court with his wife Hilda, and daughter Dawn.

Usta Prichuk

Usta, was the youngest daughter of Mike and Effie Prichuk. She was born December 13, 1931. She received her education at the Eula Creek and Kinuso schools. When she was finished school, she helped with work at home during the summer months, and was employed as cook's helper in lumber camps during the winter. For a time she also worked in the kitchen of the local Cafe. Later she moved to Grande Prairie, where she and her husband Bob Sims, make their home. They have 3 children, Jean, Debbie, and Terry.

Steve Prichuk

I was born in Kinuso, Dec. 18, 1928, and raised on our family farm with my two sisters, Mary and Usta, and my brother Peter. Our farm was in the area known as Eula Creek, east of town. (Kinuso)

I started my schooling in the Town of Kinuso. During those first two years, my sister Mary and I, would make the seven mile trip with horse and buggy. We would pick up cousin Florence along the way, as Uncle Fred's farm was only a mile and a half from our place. Arriving at the school, we had to unharness "Old Bella", as we called our horse, and put her in the school barn and leave feed for her for the day. After school it meant harnessing the horse and making the long trip home again.

Later the local farmers began cutting down trees, and built a schoolhouse (log) on the northwest corner of Jack Erricson's homestead, where he had donated a few acres for that purpose. This was in bushy land and took some time to do, but the school #4678 at Eula Creek was open for classes in 1937. Russel Simmons was our first teacher. I can remember all the kids that started school then: Erricson's — James, Marg, Stanley, Allen, Nellie, Lois, and Eugene; Schornack's — Harvey, June, and Bernie; Jimmie Griffin; Cousin Florence; my two sisters, Mary and Usta, and brother Peter, and myself. We all made up the school group.

During the war years, 1942-43, the American Army had long lines of truck conveyors going to Alaska. This heavy traffic pounded out the road pretty bad. So the Americans brought in Draglines and Caterpillars, to repair the road. One bulldozer had been left at the school yard, which gave Uncle Fred an idea, "Yes-siree" he said, "I get 'em to pushen out the stumps", which they did. It was something out of

this world for us kids to see, as we had always seen stumps chopped out with an axe.

In January 1941, the temperature dropped to 50° below zero. I think we were half frozen when we arrived at the Eula Creek School. The school being so cold that day, our teacher, Mrs. Hadley had us all sit up close to the heater to do our work, and we 'had that heater red most of the day'.

The next morning when we arrived at the school, there wasn't any school. It had burned to the ground. I guess we must have overheated the cement block chimney, as they said that the fire seemed to have started in the attic about 9 o'clock that same night. Everything was lost. Boy! us kids were happy; no more school. But 'lo and behold', a week later we were back in school. The men had got together and the log bunkhouse that Leroy and Wesley Schornack had built on their Dad's place was converted into a school. With a window in the end, a new blackboard, a few tables and benches, the school was in full swing again. The following year, a new school was built, but this was closed in 1945 as there were not enough pupils. So we had to finish our school in the "Town School".

As we were growing up, so was our cow population. We now had up to 14 cows to milk. My sisters, my brother, and myself would milk 2 cows each, and Mum and Dad milked 3 each. We shipped cream twice a week. Dad had a 1924 Model T. Ford touring car, and we would all pile in with our 5 gallon can of cream and head for town. Before we got to the highway, there were five gates to open; one on Jack Scott's, two on Kurt McKinley's, and two on Uncle Fred's. We kids took turns 'opening and closing those gates'. Arriving in town, we waited for the passenger train to come. The station platform would fill up with people; it seemed like everyone came to meet the train to see who got off, and who got on. When the train left, everyone went home. Trains were still a big event in those days.

During the war years laborers were scarce, so we kids would help with the harvesting. Grain was cut with a binder, stooked, and threshed with a machine. As Dad and my Uncle Fred had a threshing machine (threshing outfit), I was given the job of keeping it running, at 14 years old. I had to make sure the machine sat level, so it wouldn't throw too much grain over, and make sure the drive belt was on straight, so it wouldn't cut a groove in the side wall of the tractor tire on my Uncle's new Massey Harris tractor. During the years, I helped do quite a bit of custom threshing, as there were not too many threshing machines in the district.

My first experience in operating a crawler tractor was on a 'Caterpillar 20', that Doug McLaughlin had bought for clearing land after he came out of the Army. He had bought a half section of land from Kurt McKinley, through the V.L.A. Curley Roe did the brush cutting and piling, and my job was to do the breaking.

I, and that little Cat, used to have quite a battle when it came to backing up. I used to get mixed up by pulling the wrong steering clutch lever or stepping on

the wrong brake pedal, but I finally mastered it.

I worked for Imperial Lumber Co. when they first built a planning complex in Kinuso in the late forties. The Construction Superintendent, Mr. Creswell, was very good at construction and I learned a lot from him. The green chain was built on Charlie Cline's farm, half a mile or so from town. Here the lumber was dry piled, taking up about 10 acres of land. Later the green chain and lumber yard were set up north of the tracks, closer to the planing mill. While working for Imperial Lumber, I first learned to operate a Hydraulic Dozer.



Steve Prichuk's first "Cat" at their farm.

In 1950, Dad and I bought a TD6 Cat, from our International Dealer, W. M. Card. Ross Davis, being present in the shop, offered me a job with our Cat, skidding logs for his saw mill. He was one of the many saw mill operators getting established or moving into the area to saw for Imperial Lumber. It was estimated that there was enough timber to last 20 years.

In 1952, the district Engineer, Doug McLaughlin, hired me with my TD6 and TD9 Cats with beeegee scrapers, to do some road upgrading in Swan Valley. This was my first experience in road building. We were working along by J. C. Hunt's land, and there was a small row of trees growing well on the shoulder of the road. I was clearing brush alongside the road, when Doug came alongside and told me not to take those trees out, as they had "History behind them"! The trees are still there today in 1979. The story goes that the first white settler up the Valley camped under those trees.



Steve Prichuk working with his "Cat".

In 1953, I bought a new D4 Cat. This was like a million dollars to me, for even as a kid, I was a great admirer of machines. Road construction sort of fell into my line of work. I helped build many miles of road throughout this area, including oil fields. I have several pieces of heavy construction equipment and I am still in this line of business today.

Charlie Quinn

Charlie Quinn came to Kinuso in 1932 from Nova Scotia. He lived in Swan Valley for a few years.

In his early years he worked for Howard McRae of Faust, taking care of the horses they used for logging. He passed away in 1975.

Mrs. Ramaker's Story

Re — Ali Van Der Horst

Written by herself and Alyce Posegate.

* * * * *

I was born in Shiedam, Holland, in 1907, and grew up there. I married Gerat Van der Horst when I was 23 years old and moved to Delft. He worked as a carpenter for a fruit company making boxes and crates.

We had two children Margaret and Jack. When World War 2 broke out things became very difficult; food, clothing, and fuel became very scarce. My husband, along with many others, was taken to Germany, to work for the Germans, so I was left to look after the family as best I could. When the War was over, things were even worse, and at this time I divorced by husband.



Ali Van der Horst in Dutch dress.

One summer my uncle Sam Kool and his wife, came to visit our family. They told me I should come to Canada where I could make a better life for the children and myself. In 1949, we moved to Kinuso where I worked on Sam Kool's farm. I stooked grain, rode the binder, and helped with making hay, and also helped to cook for the threshing crew. It was a never ending round of hard work, all in an effort to re-pay Sam the money he loaned us to come to Canada. When this was accomplished, I moved into town; Margaret went to work doing housework for the Card family, being only 17 years old then. When

she was 20 years old she married Fred Dumont, a school teacher in Kinuso. They lived here for 11 years, then moved to High Prairie where Fred was 'School Superintendant'. Now, he works for the Gov. as "Co-ordinator" having an office in Edmonton and High Prairie. They have 3 children, Linda, Rickey, and Leanna, also 2 grandchildren.

After we moved to town, Jack was able to attend school. In Holland he had been in grade 6, but was put into grade one here, because he didn't know the language too well. He was then 12 years old, so it was not easy for him. However, with the kind coaching of the teacher, he was able to skip a grade or two. At 20 years of age, he graduated from grade 12. After graduation he went to Edmonton for medical reasons, and remained in the city where he found employment. He has worked for National Drug for almost 20 years.

During all this time, I worked at housework for several families, and later was employed at Kinuso Mercantile for 7 years. At 67 years of age, I retired.

I am a member of the Senior Citizens Club, a member of the United Church Women's group, and also a member of the Agriculture Society. So I keep busy.

Amos Rand

Amos Rand came to Kinuso during the depression years. A carpenter and ran a saw mill. Moved away in later years.



The A.W. Rand place, north of Kinuso, when Mr. Rand was still alive. He died in 1961, the same year the Kodiak Lodge opened up.

Grandma Reeves

Courageous, far-sightedness, with the ability to look to the future. Such a woman was "Grandma Reeves".

In 1901, in Oliveville, Kentucky, she lost her school teacher husband, 2 weeks before her baby daughter Olive, was born. This left her alone to face the future.

As with other people hearing of the north, she made her way there, meeting up with and marrying John Beagles. Eventually a son, Raymond (Buddy) was born. They came to Athabasca, Alta., and got land and made their home there for awhile. But hearing that more money could be made farther west, they decided to try it.

They came to Sawridge and on to 9 mile Point where they ran a stopping place for the winter of 1913

of their age, they moved to Calgary, to be near Buddy (Raymond), their son. It is from here they both passed away.

Ruby Rice First Year Experiences in Pioneering

Memories in 1965

While I came into this Peace River Country, June, 1919, two hundred miles north of Edmonton "by train" after the First World War, many older pioneers came by caboose, drawn by oxen or horses. It was real pioneering for me, having lived all my life either in Boston, Philadelphia, or within fifty miles of Montreal in the Eastern Townships.

This (Swan River) was a small town, at that time being served by the E.D.&B.C.-R.R. (Edmonton, Dunvegan & British Columbia Railroad) but more popularly known as the "Exceedingly Dangerous & Badly Constructed Railroad." It has since changed hands and is much improved, and operated by the N.A.R. There was no highway then, linking the small towns; this train being the only means of transportation. It ran twice a week, to and from Edmonton.

My husband, Windsor, came into this country in 1913. He homesteaded in 1917, then went into partnership with Don Pierce, in a general store business — one of three stores. When he went overseas in 1918, he left an older couple on his homestead, to look after his stock, house, and general farming.



Mr. and Mrs. Windsor Rice.



John Reeve's home.

and 1914. While here they met many people who were freighting. Such people were the Gallaghers, Art Johns, Fred Stuck, and many others of our pioneers. It is believed that they got Art Johns to bring them to the Swan River, where they filed on a homestead.

After a couple of years, she lost Mr. Beagles, so was alone again to make her living with her son Buddy, but her daughter Olive, had married Harry Walker by this time.

She ran a Restaurant down on the N.E. corner of town, but later ran a Restaurant and Rooms in the "Old Bake Shop", as we called it.

Here she met and married John Reeves, who had come to Kinuso and worked the "Old Coal Mine", 7-8 miles east of town.



Mr. and Mrs. John Reeves, daughter-in-law Ella and granddaughter Maureen.

Again, she and John Reeves took up land and farmed for many years until their health failed. They then moved to town, where they lived in a nice little home, growing a beautiful garden and many lovely flowers. When it became too hard for them, because

We were married in the East upon his return from the War, and arrived here in 1919, very early in the morning. There could not have been more than fifty or seventy-five of a population in the town itself and I recall just five white women beside my self at that time. The townsite had just been opened the previous year; it had been a part of the Swan River Indian



Left to right: Walter Johnson, Geo Moore, Mrs. Moore, Jean (Quinn) Moore, Vin Rice and Windsor Rice.

Reserve. There were more people in the Valley, the oldest section of our farming district, and a very picturesque Valley it is, with the Swan Hills in the background. The old Klondyke Trail ran through the Valley, and a house still stands, which I have been told, was used as a stopping place in the early days.

There were other settlers north of the town toward Lesser Slave Lake — probably an overall population of about three hundred.

There were four families in the Valley from the same part of the East we were, making it very pleasant for us. We had mutual friends and mutual relatives. Fortunately, one of our good friends met us upon arrival. My husband, Windsor, had a premonition, someone would be there and asked me previously whether I wanted to go right home to our little log cabin or accept any invitation there might be. I, of course, wanted to go right home, having visions of the log house, as it had been pictured to me after a visit from his sisters in 1917; they brought yards of cretonne and chintz, making it most attractive. They also brought several pieces of Wearever Aluminum, some of which I still have. Our friends, Mr. and Mrs. Moore, however, were most insistent, so we went home with them, seven miles up the Valley. Three miles from town I saw a log house with birds soaring all round it. I asked if it was a bird sanctuary. "No", they said, "that is your home." Well, I didn't know too much about birds but thought it very strange. The swallows had been allowed to build their mud nests in one solid mass, under the eaves of this 24 x 30 house. The couple in charge of the place had been sent a wire asking them to meet us, which they didn't do. We stopped, as naturally Windsor was anxious to see his home and show it to me and couldn't understand why they hadn't met us. One look inside was enough to know why. The people were there so were the dogs, cats, mice and insects, these latter had taken over. There was no place one could lie down, sit down or

put anything down. Our good friends, the Moores, knew what we did not — that it would be impossible for us to stay there.



Mr. and Mrs. Windsor Rice's home in Kinuso.

We stayed a week with, the Moores, in the meantime a couple of rooms had been prepared for us over the store in town. The couple at the farm moved, and the place was actually shovelled out, birds nests destroyed — this was greatly deplored but an absolute necessity — the house fumigated several times and scrubbed with lye. Aug. 19th, we moved in to harvest the crop.

The move itself deserves description. We loaded our possessions on a hayrack, trunks of wedding gifts, trousseau linens, clothes, etc. At the back of the rack a calf was tied, an inducement for the cow to follow. That morning I had received a wedding gift, of a cut glass cream and sugar, from the East. Our partner, Don Pierce, who was a jovial man, was doubled up with laughter as the rack was being loaded. He wished he had a picture of the horse drawn hayrack, livestock included, to send the friend who had sent me the cut glass. He thought they would have substituted a milk pail.

1919, was a very wet summer and early fall, the vegetables froze in the ground and there was great difficulty getting the crops threshed, not the modern machinery there is to-day. I had a threshing crew of about eight, and I with little or no experience in cooking, but was learning, necessity being the best teacher. The weather was cold and our log house needed "mudding," Windsor went strenuously about this task.

My table was laid for dinner, white cloth and all. On one of my trips from the kitchen, I found the whole table, including the food, spattered with mud which had come through, between the logs. Nothing to do but begin over again. Our crew consisted of many ethnic origins, English, German, French, Russians, Cree Indians and one Negro. We survived it all — even the cooking.

We moved back to town in November to a new, clean but small two and a half room house. We were very fortunate in procuring this, it was the only available place and in great demand. It belonged to the "White-cotton's."

In January, 1920, I was to go as a delegate to the U.F.W.A. convention in Calgary. The trains were due

to leave here Tuesdays and Fridays, at night, arriving in Edmonton the next morning. A friend and I were to leave on Tuesday's train. The thermometer registered sixty-two below zero. The train was reported late from night until morning, from morning to night, this went on until it finally arrived Friday, three days late. By this time the Convention in Calgary was over. My friend who lived several miles and had waited in town during this period, went home. Windsor and I went to Edmonton on this ghost train. They took on supplies here for the diner or there would not have been any food; there was no linen for the berths, no water for the washrooms. We arrived in Edmonton, Sunday night, tired out and I had contracted one of the worst colds, I ever had, and was confined to a hotel room, most of the time.

Spring finally made its appearance and to cap it all a gruesome murder came to light, the town was full of policemen. I surely thought I was in the wild and wooly west. Spring also saw more people coming in and more buildings — a mushroom town as it were springing up over night. We built a home in the spring, in which we still live.

While there is still much to be desired, there has been great improvements — the houses have been electrified, which means we too may have modern equipment. Transportation is better, there is a train a day and two buses each way — to and from Edmonton. There has been a gravelled highway for years, it now links up with the Alaska Highway. We still have three stores, but with deep freeze equipment, quite different from the old ones, and a meat market, two restaurants, three garages, a ten room school — including grade twelve, which is a very modern looking building. There is one Catholic church, and 2 Protestant churches, a two sheet curling rink, a large Legion Hall which the boys built on their return from World War II, where dances and other community affairs are held, also the latest in 35 MM shows. A planing mill is operating here, employing about fifty people. The total population now must be approximately six hundred.

There are times I feel all these adventures and others, such as staying all night in a Model T Ford, in a mud hole, because of the Model T's temperamental lights, are a rich and worth while experience — at other times I wonder!!

The Rice Family

"Vin, Sally, Bill & Darla"

by Vin

What was to be the first and last child of Ruby and Windsor Rice was me, Windsor Vincent (Jr.) born on April 3rd, 1921. I was dubbed Vin or Vince later on in life and have gone by those handles ever since. My earliest recollections of living in Kinuso, there would be a population of about one hundred. This small community supported four General Stores, a pool room and barber shop, a meat market, shoe and harness repair and silent hand cranked movies . . . There was a hotel, a restaurant and rooming house, a livery barn, a Post Office, a Railroad Station and agent, a

railroad water tank and section crew, a dray service and a N.W.M. Police stationed here. With all that activity one would question how anyone scratched out a living in such a small community, however, luxury didn't abound like it does today with all the cars, TV's, recreational vehicles, boats and you name it with a well equipped modern home thrown in. We had the model T Ford, a luxury, finally a radio, another luxury. A good woodpile and a good garden and you were secure. At Christmas time and on your birthday you received a gift, oh yes and a little spending money on the First of July. That is the way it was and everyone was quite resigned to the fact.

My father had one of those stores that were in town and as I grew a little older I was expected to work in there but I hated that place as a kid and would pull the old disappearing act during the day. To keep me occupied during the summer months I was then taken out to the farm to do anything from raking hay, grinding grain or loading the manure spreader, I didn't mind that life at all and remember them as good old days.

When I started school there was just one room, grades one to twelve with about fifty pupils, heated with a cord wood stove and often on colder winter mornings I well remember the class standing around the stove keeping warm.

For my last year of school, 1939 - 40 I went to the Edmonton Technical High School and it was there that I realized that to accomplish anything it meant hard work. World War II was in full swing then and most of the old gang were "joining up" as it was called. I returned from School in June of 1940 and worked in the family store until January of 1942 when I left to join the R.C.A.F. and train for a wireless mechanic. I ended up spending almost a year and a half in England with the 6th Canadian Bomber Group, returning to Canada at the end of the war and being released from the service in 1945.



Left to right: Vin Rice, Mrs. Ruby Rice, Mrs. George Moore, Windsor Rice, Geo Moore, Ed Quinn, Clarence and June Quinn.

Being released from the service meant looking for another job, the family store was sold, I was thinking of furthering my education when Jack Turner approached me about joining him in building a building in partnership, he was going to repair watches and I could go into the radio repair business. Since I was quite undecided what I should do or what I was capable of doing after three and a half years in the service, why not try this temporarily . . .? Thirty-three years

later in 1979 I'm still here in the Hardware business now which I expanded to in 1961.

Those were great years in the community following the war, the area was developing, new businesses were being established in town, it really looked like the place was going to amount to something. Of course our gang was young and we had lots of energy to work and play as well. We formed the Legion in 1946 and later ended up in the theatre business after constructing a Legion Hall. That task took about ninety percent of our spare time as well as a great deal of time that wasn't spare but it was a great challenge. I was selected to be the projectionist for the theatre and was involved in that job from 1950 to 1974 when the shows had to close down. During the late 40's and 50's community interest was high and many were active in various organisations. I became involved in the Chamber of Commerce, Elks Lodge at Faust, Kinuso Village Council, Highway and Tourist Associations and even a little bit of politics.



Vin Rice family: Billy, Darla, Sally and Vin.

In 1952 a very lovely young lady from Saskatchewan arrived in Kinuso to teach school, Sally Klassen. Sally seemed to enjoy the life style and environment of the Lesser Slave Lake area... and we did cover the area. In 1954 Sally and I were married in Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan, in 1955 we found ourselves parents to a bouncing baby boy, Bill, and six years later in 1961 we were blessed with a lovely baby girl, Darla. To this time Bill is a graduate of U of A employed with Imperial Oil Co. in Edmonton as a petroleum engineer and Darla is completing her grade

twelve at Concordia College in Edmonton with plans to attend U of A this fall.

Sally is still teaching in the Kinuso School and I am still pushing hardware but we are both looking forward to retirement in a few years to enjoy some travel and a little more time to spend at the cabin at the lake.

In summarizing it all and looking back I can be very thankful for having two great parents, my father passed away at the age of 78 in 1966 and my mother at almost the age of 84 in 1972. I place a very high value on my many great friends, without these, life would be without meaning or color. Above all I owe my greatest gratitude to my wonderful wife Sally and to my son and daughter, Bill and Darla, for putting up with me and only hope that the future years will be as pleasant and interesting as those of the past.

Bob and Wendy Robinson

by Bob and Wendy

Robert (Bob) George Robinson, eldest son of George and Evelyn Robinson, was born on April 18th, 1949, in High Prairie.

He was raised on a farm along "Adams Creek" in the Swan Valley area, and later attended school in the Town of Kinuso.



Robert and Wendy Robinson and family: Clayton, Robbie, Laura.

On June 8th, 1968, he married Karen Wendy Helfenstein, youngest daughter in a family of seven,

raised by Alvin and Freda Helfenstein, of Thorsby, Alberta.

They resided in the Thorsby area for two years, during which their two oldest children were born. The family then moved to Devon where Bob had been employed on the service rigs the past two years.

Here they remained until Bob's work took them to Fort Nelson, B.C. in June of 1974. His employment there with a cement company took them later, to Ross River, Yukon Territories.

They are now making their home on a farm which was formerly owned and homesteaded by Sam Sloan. It's located on the Swan Hills highway south of Kinuso.

(Robbie) Robert George, Junior, was born on March 22nd, 1969 in Leduc, Alberta.

Laura Leigh — was born on August 3rd, 1970, in Slave Lake, Alberta.

Clayton Alvin — was born June 8th, 1976; their second son was born on their eighth anniversary, in High Prairie, Alberta.

Edward and Ione Robinson

Edward Norman Robinson, born September 20, 1955 in the High Prairie Hospital.

I was raised on a farm in the Swan Valley. I attended school in Kinuso.

In 1973 I ventured to Devon, Alberta, to work on a rig. Here I met my wife, Ione Nodala Robinson (Fritz). Born October 29, 1957, in Edmonton. The only daughter of William and Alberta Fritz, residents of Devon. We were married June 8, 1974, in Devon.



Edward and Ione Robinson — June 8, 1974.

I then applied for a job with Texaco in Deer Mountain and in September, 1974, we moved there. From Deer Mountain we moved to Kinuso, where we purchased a home.

With only one goal in mind now, we hope to move and to farm the N.W.¼, Section 4, located in the Swan Valley, where we hope to reside for many years to come.

George and Evelyn Robinson and Family

George Robinson, born November 22, 1907, only son of George William Robinson and Jane Robinson, formerly Jane Wilde, at 33 Shepley St., Glossop, County of Derby, England.

In 1928 at the age of twenty-one he decided to go to Canada as he had a chance to immigrate through the soldier settlement board.



George and Evelyn Robinson.

On his arrival at Quebec he was given one silver dollar and told he was now a Canadian citizen.

He came west and worked in Westlock, Alberta, then in British Columbia and in Saskatchewan for the harvest, and later back in Alberta again at Cherhill, he met Scotty McNiel. Jobs were hard to get and usually didn't last long. Most workers were riding the box cars looking for work. Scotty said he knew a place where they would find work and that he had a brother and friends there so they came to Kinuso.

Here he met the Hunt family. In 1937 he married Evelyn May Robinson (Hunt), eldest daughter of Glennie and Harry Hunt.

In 1947 we settled on S.W. ¼, Section 9. Formerly owned by Joseph Stone. Here the family grew to include ten children, seven daughters and three sons and twenty-two grandchildren, five grandsons and seventeen granddaughters.

Mary Glenda — Mr. and Mrs. James Fillion. Children: Charleen, James, Tracy, Valerie, Leslie and Heather.

Barbara May — Mr. and Mrs. Harold Blize. Children: Michelle and David.

Carolyn Louise — Mr. and Mrs. Alan Uhrig. Children: Alana and Angela.

Audrey Helen — Mr. and Mrs. Duane Doig. Children: Lisa, Loraine and Montgomery.

Robert George — married Wendy Helfenstein.
Children: Robert, Laura and Clayton.

Roberta Lee — Mr. and Mrs. Willie Hatt.
Children: Tara and Tanya.

James William — married Louise Blize. Children:
Kimberly and James.

Edward Norman — married Ione Fritz.

April Ione — Mr. and Mrs. Dennis Bates.
Children: Sherri and Andrea.

Elaine Christine — attending Kinuso school.



George and Evelyn Robinson's family group.

Now after forty years, in which our crops were hailed out, froze out and flooded, to us there is no place like a little farm in Swan Valley.

A Short History of the Roe's

as told by Louise Roe.

In the spring of 1926, stories of hunting and trapping in Canada brought Harold (Puts), William (Bill), Bonny (Tip) and Leo (Bones) Roe to Alberta, from Michigan, U.S.A. Tip Roe settled with his family just West of Kinuso and Bill settled with his family at Smith, Alta. Through letters written home to Michigan about the wolves howling, moose hunting and good trapping, Ernest Roe decided to bring his wife Louise, his son Curly and his father, Ephriam, 76 years old to Alberta and visit his brothers.

They left Michigan on May 1st, 1929 in a 1928 Model T Ford. During the trip up to Alberta which took eleven days, they camped out each night in a tent at either a city campsite or along the road. For 25¢ you could camp overnight and use the facilities of a town or city campsite and camp kitchen, I remember that at that time Edmonton had a real nice campsite. After we left Edmonton we followed a winding sand road through to Athabasca and from there to Smith where we crossed the Athabasca River on the ferry to get to Moose River where Ernest's brother Bill and his family lived. On arriving at Bill's we discovered that his house had burned to the ground the day before and Bill and his family were living outside. We pitched our tent and stayed a couple of days and then with Bill's wife, Myrtle, left for Kinuso to see Tip and his family.



Ernest and Louise Roe.

When we arrived in Slave Lake we drove up to Charlie Schurter's garage to fill up with gas and Charlie said to Ernest without ever having seen him before, "You're one of the Roe boys." Just past Slave Lake the road was all corduroy and the ground all wet because the road was hemmed in with big spruce trees. Some motorists with big cars were stranded in mudholes and Ernest and Curly had to help them out before we could get through because there was no room to pass them. When we arrived in Kinuso, Tip, Bones and Puts were living on the old Walker place. We stayed at Tips for awhile that summer and then moved into the old English house which was situated where Strawberry Service is now located and Ernest went to work for Frank Dewis putting corduroy on the road. With a team they hauled logs for corduroy and were paid \$25.00 a day. They worked until October of 1929 when the crash came and work stopped immediately and the men were laid off. Ernest's dad, Ephriam stayed with Tip and Martha and the other boys and Ernest, Curly and I went back to Smith and built a cabin on Bill's homestead. Bill and Ernest went trapping that winter up the Quiticow River.

In the summer of 1928 a company called Ross and Cornwall took the contract putting the road through on a cost plus basis. They had a camp down by the Slave River on Bill Roe's flat. They were building the road with horses and scrapers and dynamiting the stumps out. Bill and Ernest used to go to their camp and get their empty jam cans and syrup pails to put moose and bear grease in as that was the only lard we had during the depression. In 1931, the first year Curly went to school he had to cross the Slave River in a boat and walk to Spurfield. In 1932 the homesteaders of the Moose River District got together and built a log school on the school quarter next to Bill's homestead. Each homesteader made their child's desk and painted it. I remember that Curly's was painted a brilliant blue. They hired a teacher named Lawrence

Peacock who lived in one corner of the school building partitioned off by sheets. School was held for only four months in the summer because of the severe winters. At that time Curly rode his horse "Dogie" to school and his dog "Snob" waited for him each day out in the school yard.

In the summer of 1932, Ernest worked for Fields and Patterson on the River Drive and cut ties in the winter. In the winter of 1932-33 we hired a neighbor, John Johnson, to take us to the trapline with his team and sleigh. We stayed at the cabin on the Quiticow river all winter while Ernest and Curly trapped. Curly would go to Smith once a week to get coffee, tobacco and other necessities with his dog team. While we were on the trapline that year, the rabbits were so thick they toppled hay stacks by eating hay around the bottoms in the settlement. On the trapline they were everywhere, even on the doorsteps and the snow was so deep they could look in the windows. In the spring when the snow went down, the brush was as sharp as needles about 5 feet up where they had ate it off while the snow was deep. At that time you could look off into the muskeg and see as many as 15 big bull moose with great big racks of horns. Ernest and Curly would call timber wolves up from the river bottom almost to the door. That year they made fantastic wages for depression time by catching fox. Cross fox, silver tip and red fox were real thick. They also trapped alot of squirrels, wolves, weasels, lynx and coyotes. They made their own snowshoes by soaking strips of moosehide in water and then stringing frames made from seasoned birch wood that they steamed and bent into shape.

In the summer of 1933 we moved back to Kinuso where we got a homestead across the road from where Strawberry Service now stands. Ernest and Curly made our living by trapping and in 1935 our daughter Doris was born in the log house we had built there. This was the first year they had registered traplines. We were still in the depression years and some people on relief were getting \$7.50 a month. With this amount they bought the bare necessities like flour, yeast, lard, salt and if they were lucky sugar, coffee and tobacco. One family we knew had a hollowed out log where they made 18 loaves of bread at a time for a big family. Unless you were on relief at that time you couldn't get a job for the government because if they gave you a job they could get you off of relief.

Our son Bruce was born on the homestead and then we moved to a place on Strawberry Creek where our daughter June was born. By this time the war was on and Curly and Bones joined the army. Bones was overseas until the war ended. During the war we moved into Kinuso where our daughter Sharon and our youngest son, Oren was born. Curly lost his first wife and moved to Michigan where he remarried and he and his wife Eleanor adopted two children. They still live in Michigan and have one grandchild. Doris married Marvin Hunt of Kinuso and they have 6 children. Bruce married a girl from Flint, Michigan and he and Shirley have 3 children and live in Saskatoon. June has not married and lives in Kinuso Sharon married Ken Sloan and they have 4 children

and live in Swan Valley. Oren married Sharon Cuthbert and they have 3 children and live in Kinuso. My husband, Ernest passed away at the age of 80 in April of 1977. I still live in Kinuso in the Senior Citizen's residences.

Roe's Trip to Canada and Some Sketches of Their Lives

as told by the former Martha Roe, now Martha Johnson

On June 29th, 1925, my husband Tip (Bonnie Amos) Roe and his brother Bill Roe and family started on our trip to Canada from West Branch, Michigan, located 200 miles north of Detroit, Michigan.

We got as far as Terry, Montana where they decided to work in the harvest there. After harvest we moved to Medicine Lake, Montana where my first child, Joey (Leonard Kelsey) was born on February 18th, 1926. When we started on our trip, Tip was 29 years old and I was 20.

In the spring, Tip's two brothers, Leo and Harold and their father Ephriam Roe came to Medicine Lake where we all continued on our trip to Canada. We crossed the line into Canada on May 1st, 1926.

Their father Ephriam left us at Swift Current, Saskatchewan and returned to Detroit.

Near Athabasca the boys had to fix up a bridge on the road so we could continue our travels. At Sota Landing the boys cut 3,000 logs for Field and Patterson. Near Athabasca we ran out of supplies and I think it was a Mrs. Hayes who baked some biscuits for us.

We finally settled at Kinuso and the boys put up hay for Field and Patterson. Tip filed on two homesteads but never proved up on them. He held a registered trap line for 38 years.

On May 24th, 1929, Ernest and Louise Roe and father Ephriam came to Kinuso. Ephriam lived with us and he died on October 17th, 1929. He was 76 and is buried in the Swan Valley Cemetery.

We had eight children and raised five of them, all are married. Joey, age 53 is a plumber in the Buick factory in Flint, Michigan where he has worked for thirty years, and is due for pension. He lives at Flushing, near Flint and they have two adopted children.

Popcorn (Duffle Avery) who is 51, drives a semi-trailer truck hauling car parts from Flint to Detroit. He lives at Linden, Michigan and is married and has two children. Manny (Emil) who is 48 drives truck for his brother Neil at Slave Lake. His family lives at Aldergrove, B.C. They have five children. Mervyn Neil who is 45 has formed a company for construction and lives in Slave Lake. They have four children. Helen DeFord, 41, lives at Flint Michigan. This is her tenth year working in the Flint Post Office. Her husband, Joe is an inspector in the Chevrolet shop in Flint, is a Notary and is on the Reserve Police Force. They have three children and live in Flint. My four youngest children were born at Kinuso. I also had one step daughter, Edith. She was four when I married Tip. I raised her until she was seventeen, when she

returned to the United States, married and is still there. Leo and Harold are married. Leo lives in Sherwood Park, Alberta, and Harold at Calling Lake, Alberta. Bill Roe died on November 12th, 1963 and Tip on November 20th, 1965 from his second heart attack.

I remained a widow for nearly 12 years. On July 20, 1977, I married Matt Johnson of Ashmont, Alberta. We are now living in the Senior Citizens Housing Units in Slave Lake and are happy and contented. While married to Tip Roe, I lived in Kinuso for 13 years, moved to Fawcett Lake, Alberta, for eight years, then in 1948 moved back to Kinuso. In 1958 we bought a pool hall in Slave Lake.

Leo Roe

submitted by Leo Roe

In the winter of 1927, brothers Tip, (wife Martha) Harold and myself drove from Flint, Michigan in an Essex and a Ford. On our way to Kinuso (Swan River) we had to travel part way on the ice of Lesser Slave Lake.

After arriving in Kinuso we all lived in a cabin close to Strawberry Creek. There we bought dogs and packed them with a few supplies such as flour, sugar, tea and coffee, and went up the Inverness River and built a log cabin where we all trapped. Foxes sold for \$25. - \$65.00, coyotes for \$15.00. We trapped winters and worked in mills and logging camps in the summers.

I worked with the Alberta Forestry in the 50's from 1950- to 1956. My wife Cynthia (Grono, Turner) and I ran the Kinuso Post Office from 1956-61.

In my trapping and hunting days, I had many an encounter with Grizzly Bears. One day I was out hunting a moose. I killed one but as it was getting late, I skinned it and left the meat there. When I went back the next day, I had forgotten to load my rifle before leaving the cabin and only had 2 shells with me. As I neared the meat, there, right in front of me was a grizzly bear, eating my moose.

My first shot paralyzed his back, then he moved his head just as I shot the second time, hitting him in the muscles of his head. He was roaring so loud, I thought more bears would come, so I got behind a tree and reached around with my knife and struck him in the juglar, quickly pulling my arm back. The bear's last fling of his arm just grazed my cheek. I climbed a tree but no bears came, I got down from the tree and built a fire. I worked on the bear most of the night, skinning and cutting off the fat for cooking and rendering. The next day I took the meat home.

I am 77 years old but I'm still trapping for a hobby, with my brother Harold near Calling Lake where he and his family live.

The price of fur has greatly increased but the fur bearing animals are not so plentiful now.

History of My Family

by Oren Roe

My name is Oren Roe, and I have spent most of

my 30 years in Kinuso and area. I was born in the year 1948, in High Prairie, Alberta. My family lived just west of Kinuso for a few years on what is called Strawberry Creek. After a few years we moved into Kinuso. In 1955, our family moved to Fort Bragg, California, for a year where most of my mother's family lived. In 1957, we moved back to the Kinuso area, and built a home in the Swan Valley.

In 1965, I finished my grade 11 in Kinuso with thoughts of dropping out of school. My brother Ernest, and family from Michigan, were up for summer vacation and talked me into returning with them to Michigan to complete my grade 12. I finished grade 12 and attended a college there for a year before returning again to Kinuso.

I then worked as time-keeper for Department of Public Works, and then I worked for the Alberta Forest Service.

In 1970, I married Sharon Cuthbert, great-granddaughter to Jesse and Nellie Sloan, and granddaughter to Hercil and Delta Sloan, some of the first settlers in the area. Sharon has lived in the Kinuso area for the majority of her 27 years, except for a short period of time living in High Prairie. Sharon is one of the few people born at home in our area. Her parents Murray and Doris Cuthbert, still reside in High Prairie, Alberta.

The first winter of our marriage I spent up North, working seismic for "Sloan Drilling". In the spring, our first son Shawn was born. I began work for Texaco Canada Ltd. in Deer Mountain, where I am still employed to date. We lived for a couple of years in Deer Mountain, where our daughter Tammy arrived, also born in High Prairie, Alberta. We moved again in 1974, back towards Kinuso settling in Swan Valley where we stayed for over a year. Our last move found us living on the edge of town (Kinuso). Our youngest child Ryan is now 20 months old, and was born after our moving. I have come almost a full circle since my younger years in returning to Kinuso. Although leaving for short periods of time, I have always returned. Joining Kinuso Town Council as a councilman a year ago, has helped me to be aware of many problems and many benefits than can be had from living in a small community such as Kinuso. There are many recreational facilities available in our community, and hopefully more in the future. I have three sisters and Mother, living in the Kinuso area. One brother lives in Saskatoon, and one in Flint, Michigan. Sharon's family live in High Prairie, and one sister in Prince George, B.C.

My father came to Canada as early as 1921, and settled in Moose Portage, later coming to Kinuso to settle and raise his family. He trapped his entire life in House Mountain area with his brothers and sons until his death. I still hold his trapline with my sister and we trap every year. Trapping is the heritage my father passed down to me and unlike Sharon's heritage, which was farming, shows that all kinds of people make up a community.

The Roffey Story

Bill's parents moved from Ontario to Edmonton in

1900. His father was second generation Scot, and his mother second generation Irish. His father's first homestead was what is now part of Jasper Ave. in Edmonton, however he threw this up in order to move nearer his wife's people, who homesteaded ten miles farther north. Bill was born on this second farm in 1901.

Bessie was born in London, England, of a French Hugonot father and mother (Scottish). Her father died in 1904, and in 1906, her mother decided to come to Canada, bringing her daughter but leaving two sons in school in England. As she was fond of travelling she never stayed anywhere very long. Finally marrying again, after a year's holiday in Florida, they returned to Canada, her husband going back to being an elevator agent in Daugh, where they met Bill's folks. Bill and Bessie were married in 1923. Almost three years later their son Don was born and Bill went to work for the Canyon Creek Lumber Co. of Spurfield. After ten years he decided he'd like to go back to farming. He was told Kinuso was a good country, so he bought the C. R. Fields homestead. The country was pretty much in the wild state except for the farms south of the town.

The country was much the same as now, and the town was a little smaller. The hills south were only pack trails, and few women ventured into them.

Many people had dog teams for winter use, as there weren't a half dozen motor vehicles in the country. The old time picnics they used to have just outside the town was the time the neighbors all gathered to visit and enjoy a day together.

Here is an amusing incident which happened to us. Bill was working in Spurfield, while I looked after things here. Some people came from High Prairie one day asking if they could put their cab in the yard and horses in the barn as they were calling on the people in the district for a week. I said they could do this. Their coming and going evidently was just too much for my neighbor. Her curiosity got the better of her and while as a rule she never paid any attention to me, she just had to see who I was entertaining, so down she came with the excuse she wanted to buy a half pint of cream. They were milking a cow themselves. One of the men was turning the separator for me when she arrived, so I am sure she had some nice juicy gossip to tell at the next W. I. meeting.

We have lived here for 35 years and like both the country and neighbors, only wishing we had shorter winters and a little less rain in the summer.

Notes Along Life's Way

by Mrs. Bessie Roffey

June 1906 — On board ship from England on the Lake Manitoba. We had an Army Officer who had had malaria in India. A few days out he started acting queer. Finally he became worse, so was put in a little cabin on deck and locked in. The sailors took his meals to him. One day after coming out and locking the door, as the sailor passed under the porthole out came the dinner plat on top of the sailor's head. Later they had to put him in a straight jacket while he raged and swore day and night and they were afraid we'd

have a burial at sea. However he made it to Quebec, where he was taken off.

We had twin boys born in the steerage. Everyone was thrilled and a collection was taken up for them. It was a blessing as the parents were very poor. I'm not sure what nationality they were, but believe Russian.

As we neared a spot in the Atlantic called the Devil's Hole, a fierce storm came up, so we were held down for three days. No one could get out on deck as the waves were washing right over it. How that old ship rolled. She was one of the last of the wooden ships that went over the waves, not *through* as now-a-days.

Leaving Quebec for Winnipeg, the train was held up while the track was being laid for three hours. We all got out and picked blueberries.

Saskatchewan — Mother took the cooking in a Creelman hotel. One day as she was making tea for the proprietors wife, she heard a voice behind her say, "Give me something to eat." Mother said, "Is that the way you ask for it?" The tramp then picked up a butcher knife and came for her, but he'd made a sad mistake there, as Mother picked up the boiling tea kettle and let him have it right in the face. The proprietor hearing the noise looked out the office door. He said later all he could see was the little woman's arm and pots and pans flying. This tramp had terrified several women in the town, getting money from them, but he got a stay in hospital from Mom. She was only 5 feet tall.

1907 — 1908 B.C.

We spent part of the winter in Fernie, and if we'd stayed it would have been one of the first buildings to go in the fire of 1908. But we had moved to Macleod (now Fort Macleod). We could see the reflection of the fire outlining the mountains. Later it rained for 30 days which put the fire out, but caused the Old Man River to flood, covering all the river flats and washing the C.P.R. pumping station down the river to the junction of the St. Marys near Lethbridge. The man that attended this pumping station stuttered, and the first thing we knew about it was when he came in white as a sheet and said, "it's n-n-not f-fun-ny seeing your j-job go down the river."

1908 - 1914

When we had the Fair in Macleod, Indians from the Blood Peigan, and Blackfoot reserves would camp behind our place. Two roads divided the three camps. They never mixed but all got their water from our well. The old Blood Medicine Man used to come with the women, and before they could draw any water, he would wave a willow wand over the well with some sort of incantation. They would borrow pots, etc. from us and always returned everything. The Chief's daughter used to drive past our house sometimes. I thought her beautiful. She had a shiny black buggy with a shining pair of black horses and brown harness, a white bearskin on the seat, and she dressed in all pink with a pink parasol, which she held at arms length above her head.

Later we moved to Blackfoot. There was only a

store there, but with the farmers around and Mother's experience in the theatre, we put on plays and dances and built a hall. From there we went to Florida, where it was a common sight to see a five foot long alligator cross the road in front of you.

On returning I married and lived in Spurfield and later Kinuso.

Don and Grace Roffey

Don and Grace were married on April 13, 1960 in Kinuso. Don had moved to Kinuso with his parents, Bill and Bessie, when only a child. Grace came to Kinuso with her parents in 1951.

We lived in Grande Prairie for approximately 1 year, after we were married and then moved back to Kinuso. We lived in town for about 1 year and then moved to a farm 4½ miles north of Kinuso.

We have four children: Karen, Clara, Robert, and Donna.

Karen, our oldest is now in High Prairie completing her grade twelve, Clara is in grade ten and will be going to High Prairie next year. Robert and Donna go to school in grade 7 and grade 3. We hope their futures hold lots of fun and fulfillment in their chosen professions.

Don and I have both done some volunteer work in our small town, and our hopes are that the community will continue to exist and grow.

Don now works for the Department of Transportation and Grace hopes to continue to look after her family and do some more volunteer work in the community.

Margaret (Peggy) Rogne

The North District of the A.A.R.N. is proud to present as our 'Nurse of the Month' Mrs. Margaret (Peggy) Rogne.

Peggy is a native Albertan, and a graduate of the University of Alberta Hospital possessing a Certificate in Teaching in Schools of Nursing from the University of Toronto. After a term of general duty nursing and later holding a head nurse position at the University of Alberta Hospital, she commenced teaching "Nursing Arts" at the U.A.H. During this appointment, Peggy found time in her busy schedule to become involved with the A.A.R.N. on various committees at both district and provincial levels.

With a restless spirit and thoughts of 'greener pastures', Mrs. Rogne became relocated in the trees and bush country of the Smith-Kinuso area. As a member of the District Nursing Service, Peggy provided the people of the northern area with needed Public Health and Emergency Care Services. This she found to be "a tremendous experience combining personalized care and compassion, sprinkled with a good dose of humanity."

After taking time out to be married and raise a family of three, Peggy once again embarked on her nursing career as a staff nurse with the Peace River Health Unit. During this time, she once again became involved with the A.A.R.N. on a district level, serving on the Executive Committee of the North District

for three years.

Around certain parts of the Smoky River District, the name Peggy Rogne and Public Health has become synonymous. In all the facets of her Public Health duties, she has not only excelled, but gained respect and admiration of all people involved with her. Recently Mrs. Rogne has been appointed to assist in the establishment of the Coordinated Home Care Program in the Peace River area. It is with pleasure that the North District of A.A.R.N. presents Mrs. Margaret (Peggy) Rogne as our 'Nurse of the Month' — a nurse who has done so much for so many with very little recognition or praise.

Len and Mary Rumley (King)

from taped interview in 1978

Len Rumley was born in Owen Sound, Ontario in the year 1900. He grew up working at various jobs finally becoming a steam engineer on the "tug boats."

He first came to Kinuso in 1917. A lumber company was cutting saw logs on the "North Shore" of Lesser Slave Lake and were having trouble getting them over to this side.

Charlie Schurter says he worked with Len on this job. To quote Charlie — "Len bought a small "tug boat" and along with some others went to work getting these logs across the lake. They bought them to the mouth of the Slave River and floated them down to Mitsue where they loaded them on cars and shipped them out."

He moved to Port Arthur in the fall of 1917 and worked on the "tugs" there. In 1919-20 he was back in Kinuso working on the section for the railroad. He says "Harry Adams and I loaded ties together."

Len worked at many jobs besides driving a "tug boat" on the lake. He fished for a time, selling to Wm. Menzie. The largest catch he got was a ton and a half and sold them for 5¢ a pound. The highest price was 8¢.

In 1925, Len married Mary King and they had 4 children, Mable, Gladys, Lenny and Kenneth.

In 1927, Len and Mary took up a homestead west of town and made their home there, during some of the depression years. They raised a big garden and always got lots of meat and fish. Len was a good hunter and there was plenty of wild game in those years.

Mary was born in Kansas, U.S.A. In 1910, her mother and father, two brothers, Bill and George and herself came to Canada; at first to Edmonton and finally took up a homestead at Westlock, Alta. Mary said that the C.P.R. showed films all through the States; of small log cabins on homesteads and right beside it a farm with a beautiful big home and barns and cattle and big wheat fields. This could be done in a few short years. These ads got as far away as Kansas, so Mary's father, Bill thought, "that's the place to go, we'll really get rich up there in Canada." So Mary's Grandfather and father (Bill) shipped up 2 box cars of big machinery and another box car of cattle and horses. They took up land and tried to clear it but

most of the machinery brought was never used.

Mary's mother died in Edmonton leaving Mary with her father to raise her two brothers, Bill and George. When they had to leave this land at Westlock, Bill (Father) made his way up around Lesser Slave Lake area, getting jobs fishing, and working in lumber camps to raise his family. Mary said, "I always stayed at home and kept house for my father and brothers, till I was married."

As Len and Mary had done, her father took up land (Homesteads) a few miles west of town. He finally married Mary Patterson (Field) and farmed here for awhile. He moved to B.C. and ran a chicken farm, having as many as a couple of thousand birds.

When it became hard to make a living on the homestead, Mary and Len also moved to B.C. and lived 27 years in Burnaby, where the children grew up and some are married and still live there.

Len and Mary moved up to the Okanagan and have lived there for 12 years, where they have a beautiful home. There are many beautiful flowers and fruit in abundance and the climate is dryer than down at the coast. They spend many summers picking fruit as a hobby and now put in their time gardening and visiting their children whenever they want to.

The Mary and Edward Samuelson Story

Mary was born May 8th, 1920, in a small town called Hyas, Sask. She was lucky enough to attend "Frame Lake School," until she completed her grade 7. She walked or went by horse to school, through all kinds of weather. One incident that Mary remembers quite well was that on her way to school one day, a blizzard came up. Not being able to see where she was going, her pony led her to a neighbors place. She was so cold that they had to help her off the sleigh and put her pony in the barn.

When Mary was 8 years old, she started helping her Dad with the chores and field work on the farm. At 15 years old, she started working out, doing housework, which she didn't care for. She worked clearing land for 75 cents a day, using her wages to help out at home.

During the 2nd World War, Mary travelled to Ontario, to work in the "Mines," replacing men that were called to war. When she returned home, she cut pulpwood.

In 1946, Mary moved to Calling Lake Alta., with the rest of her family. It was here, she met and married Ed. Samuelson.

Ed. Samuelson was born, December 27th, 1922, at Wainwright, Alberta. Ed. attended school in Edmonton until he was 10 years old. At this time he and his family moved across the lake from Calling Lake, where his Father ran a trapline.

Ed. has always been a great lover of hunting. At the age of 12, he shot his first moose. He never did feel the hard times, because with the fishing and hunting, they always had lots to eat.

Ed joined the Army in 1943, and went to his first battle at Ortona Italy, which lasted 8 days. He was also in Belgium, Holland, and North Africa. He was honorably discharged, Dec. 13, 1945.

In 1949, Mary, Ed., and small son Elvin, moved to Kinuso to their homestead, north of Kinuso. At first they lived in a tent. Elvin took very ill with croupe. They had to pack him about 2 miles in the middle of the night to Mary's folks, and when daylight came, they took him to High Prairie Hospital by Charlie Griffin's Taxi.

Their first home was built in 1949. This was a one room log shack with a dirt floor, and an open vegetable pit in the middle of the floor. Ed.'s Army ground sheet was used for a door. They were really happy with this first real home of their own. In order to have a floor put in, they pitched bundles for a week for Mr. Sherrit, to pay him for a 1000 feet of lumber. This lumber was sawed very uneven; 1 inch at one end and 2 inches at the other, but it was still a lumber floor.

Ed. had to work out to make ends meet. In 1950, he and Willie Tanasiuk, went to Northwest Territories to load barges. From 1950 - 1956, Ed. worked at various sawmills during the winter. In 1956, he began to work for the Dept. of Highways, where he is presently employed.



Eddy and Mary Samuelson and baby.

Mary stayed home with Elvin. She cleared land, fenced, fought fires, and cut the winter's wood. She also fed the animals and tried to make her dream of a beautiful yard come true.

In the winter to get Elvin to school, Mary had to get up very early to get the "wood" stove started and kettle of water on to heat. She had to feed the cows, horses, and then had to drive a mile by a horse hitched to a toboggan, to meet Mervin Lovelace's school bus.

Elvin, married Josephine Abel, in 1965. Now, Mary and Ed. have 3 grandchildren, Evelyn, Ernie, and Everett.

Mary and Ed. bought a trailer, for a new home in 1976. Mary's dream of a beautiful yard has certainly come true.



Mary Samuelson's garden — 1978.

Mary started a small shop in her home in 1969, making flower arrangements, and arrangements for weddings, etc.

In 1977, she and Josephine, her daughter-in-law, opened a flower, hobby and gift shop, in the Royal Bank Building, called "Blossom Trail Flower Shop."

Daniel Schmode Family

Daniel Schmode was born on a farm at Hondo, Alberta, April 1st, 1938. He attended a two room school at Hondo.

He started work on the section at the age of sixteen, at Saulteau. In Feb. 1959, he married Joanne Clacys, and they made their home at Hondo, Alberta.

Joanne Clacys, was born on a farm in Fawcett, Alberta, and later worked as a lab. and x-ray assistant for a year.

After moving from place to place on the railroad, they and their four children moved to Faust, in September of 1963, where he was permanent Section Foreman.

They moved to Kinuso in 1968, and purchased a home, formerly owned by B. E. Boisvert. In 1972, they purchased Earl Rutledge's farm, where they are still living.

The CHILDREN — Gayle — took her first 3 years of schooling in Faust, but finished to grade 12 in Kinuso, where she graduated. She is presently employed by Kinuso Mercantile. Danny — graduated, and is now employed by Alberta Power. Sandra — is attending grade 12 in Westlock, Alberta. Michael — is in grade 11, in Kinuso.

Schornack Family

by daughter Mrs. June Robb

Nellie and Frank Schornack left the Earlie District near Kitscoty, Alberta in mid June 1929, to pioneer the new land to the north and west. They packed their household belongings into their wagon, along with their family, Doris 14 years, LeRoy 11, Wesley 9, Ruby (crippled since birth) 6, Harvey 3 and June 1 year. The trek across the country was full of new experiences. Nellie Schornack drove the team and wagon and went ahead, while Frank, Doris, LeRoy and Wesley rode horseback and herded a small herd of Shorthorn cattle through the then wilderness. The

cattle and riders would catch up with the wagon at night and they would pitch a tent and spend the night along the way. The family encountered their first view of a bear (which they thought would eat them all alive, including the horses and wagon) and heard their first eerie lynx squall, which left them all full of wonder as to what their new life held for them.



Mr. Frank Schornack.

The family travelled for 9 weeks and when they reached Kinuso the cattle were getting thin, and they knew they had to stop and put up hay for winter feed. Mr. Schornack looked around and settled his family into the "LePard" house near Strawberry Creek, just West of Kinuso. Mr. Mallard got a hay lease for Frank, and he, Nellie and the older children put up hay for the winter. Tip Roe, a nearby neighbour gave the family vegetables. Wood for fire was no problem, as logs were everywhere and Mr. Schornack and the older children just got the old cross-cut saw out and cut it into stove size. After the small poplars on the prairie the family were amazed at the size of some of the logs.

The family lived here for 2½ years where Bernadine was born, with Mrs. Clyde Churchill acting as mid-wife. The family moved to the Kurt McKinley place, East of Kinuso in 1932, and then homesteaded the Fayler quarter 5 miles east of Kinuso in 1935. Melvin was born here on January 1, 1936 and died of pneumonia a year later.

When the family took up residence 5 miles east of Kinuso there was no school and Mrs. Schornack taught the children through correspondence courses. In 1937 the neighbors got together and formed a School District, and the Eula Creek School was built in 1938, with the children of the district attending school for the first time, although some of them were in their teen years. Mrs. Schornack was secretary of



Mrs. Nellie Schornack.

the School District for many years. Most of the first teachers during the war years were from the Normal School in Edmonton. The last teacher in Eula Creek was Mr. Boswell of Canyon Creek, who was 10 years past retirement age, but it was very difficult to get teachers to come to the area. The first Eula Creek School burned down and in the interim while a new one was being erected, school was held in Schornack's bunk house. It was great for Bernie (who was always hungry) to be able to run to the house for something to eat at recess.

Frank Schornack took ill in 1935 and was bedridden until his death in November 1941. Doris, the oldest daughter left Kinuso with Faylers and trailed their cattle to Camrose. There Doris acquired a job doing housework, and remained there for a year and a half and then returned to the Kitscoty area to live with her grandmother, Carrie Hanson. Doris married Alfred Graham on December 6, 1938 and she and her husband farmed in the Kitscoty area until their retirement to Mannville in 1975. They have 3 daughters and 5 grandchildren. LeRoy served in the armed forces; after the war he trapped with Ted Labby, hunted and did manual labour. LeRoy died of diabetes on October 10, 1947. Wesley served in the Armed Forces and after the war he worked in logging camps and did other manual labour in the area until his untimely death in a car accident in April 1954. Ruby Schornack is a resident of Michner Centre in Red Deer, where she is confined to a wheel chair. Harvey is married and still lives a mile east of Kinuso. June married Douglas Robb in Peace River on June 16, 1948 and they have two adopted children and one grandson. They live in Edmonton where June is employed as an executive secretary with Alberta Labour. Bernadine married Robert Love in Kinuso in 1950 and she now lives in Edmonton. She has two sons.

After Mr. Schornack's death the family had a real struggle for survival, and Nellie went out and did

housework for Mrs. Walker, and at other times worked as a cook or cook's helper in logging camps and cafes, while the rest of the family all worked at home to keep the farm going. For many years strawberries, vegetables and eggs were a source of income for the family.



Back, left to right: Nellie Schornack, Vera Eklund, Georgina Hologate, Nellie Errieson, Ed Eklund, Wesley Schornack. Front, left to right: Melvin Eklund, Gladys Eklund, June Schornack, Bernie Schornack and Maimie Errieson.

In 1943 Mrs. Schornack sold the homestead and moved into a very small house in Kinuso, so the younger children could continue their education in town. Mrs. Schornack bought the "Bert Hologate" house in 1945, and took over the switchboard for the town and as well took in laundry and worked 12 to 14 hours per day. Mrs. Schornack took sick in 1951 and found she had diabetes and had to take insulin twice a day for the rest of her life, but still carried on her hard work.

In 1957 Mrs. Schornack sold her home in Kinuso and moved to Calgary where she ran a boarding house for 3½ years. She sold her house in Calgary in 1960 and moved to live with her daughter June, on a poultry ranch 5 miles east of Olds, Alberta. In 1969 Mrs. Schornack moved back to Kinuso to live with Harvey. She moved into the Senior Citizens Lodge in High Prairie in 1971, and passed away in High Prairie Hospital on November 2, 1972 at the age of 77. Mr. and Mrs. Schornack, LeRoy, Wesley and Melvin are

all buried in the Kinuso cemetery.



Roy Schornack.

Harvey Schornack

I was born April 17th, 1926 near Lloydminster, Alberta. I grew up on the farm in Kinuso that Charlie and Meryl Vandermark now own.

My schooling: I took Home Correspondence until the "Eula Creek School" was built and opened in 1937. The first teacher was Russel Simmons who taught for 2 years followed by Audrey Rice who also taught for 2 years. But through it all I managed to get my grade IX.

I worked for local farmers for a short time, then went into the "Construction Field" operating heavy equipment, until 1962 when I hired on with the Dept. of Public Works, where I am still employed today in 1979.

In 1972, I married Francis King. We adopted a daughter 6 years old, Leslie. We still live 2 miles east of Kinuso on the main highway.

Following are some of Frank's memories of his parent's early experiences in the Kinuso district.

At one place along the trail, they stopped at a water hole, to water the cows and horses. Not waiting on the cattle to drink, Mother drove the team and wagon on. A bear came out of the bush to the side of the road, so being very frightened at seeing her first bear, she sicked the dog on the bear, but the bear wasn't frightened, and ambled across the road into the bush, on the other side of the road. After that Mother didn't go very far ahead.

The Highway was just being built, and it was narrow, rough, and there were many pot holes, and strips



Harvey and his mother, Nellie Schornack.



Harvey Schornack driving cat.

of corduroy. Lots of times you had to stop and cut trees off the road to get through, especially after there had been a storm.

That year the "Lake" rose beyond all expectations, and flooded all the lakeshore many feet deep. Dad had never experienced such a thing, and did not know what to do with the cattle, so the following year he lost the biggest percentage of them.

In 1933, my Father and Clyde Churchill, took off for Peace River, with a team and buggy, in search of land. While they were gone, my mother, and the children, hooked up a team on a wagon, and went to Faust to apply for a "Homestead." It took her 15 hours to make the trip, having to stop and feed the

horses and care for the children, the road being axle deep with the mud. People mostly had to go to Peace River to file on homesteads, but there was such a demand, that a man was sent to Faust to accept applications.

Katharine (Kirtio) Senko

Katharine, like her eldest brother John, was also born in Poland and came to Canada with her mother and brother to join her father Anton Kirtio Sr. in the fall of 1929.

Katharine experienced hardships in her early years of life, being only seven years old when she came to Kinuso, not knowing the English language had also to face the depression years. Her trip over from the old country is something she'll never forget, she recalls the roughness of the ship and her mother and brother being very ill on the trip over. Her mother of course being the sickest and Katharine had to look after her with John's help when he wasn't sick.

At fourteen years of age Katharine began working out, first only helping neighbouring farmers, then took up cafe work.



Alex and Kaye (Kirtio) Senkoe and family.

Katharine married Alex Senko a railroader from High Prairie and lived there for a couple of years before moving to Widewater, Alberta. Alex was still employed by the railroad, and Katharine decided they should also mink farm. After building up their mink ranch, Alex quit the railroad and continued mink farming until 1963, when they sold their mink ranch in Widewater and moved to Haney, B.C. Here they purchased another mink ranch. Mink ranching in B.C. was no better than in Alberta so they sold out their pelts and are now both working. Alex with the school division and Katharine works in the Essendal Hospital.

All of Katharine and Alex's four children were born in High Prairie and Widewater.

Alexander Anton — born in High Prairie, was raised in Widewater and completed his high school in Kinuso. Alex Jr. married Bonnie and they have four children — two girls, Tammy and Kerry and twin boys, Kent and Brent, and they live in Maple Ridge, B.C.

Steven John — the second son, a truck driver, lives in Maple Ridge, B.C.

Alexis Mary — their only daughter married truck driver Rod and they live in Maple Ridge, B.C.

Timothy James — their youngest son is married and also lives in Maple Ridge, B.C. Timothy and Kim have one son Tim.

John and Doris Shantz and

Bruce and Margaret Sims

by Doris Shantz

My husband Jack and myself moved to Kinuso from Rocky Mountain House in the fall of 1965. How was it we came here?

Well in the fall and winter of 1962, Bruce was drilling for oil in the Deer Mountain area. June of 1963, Bruce and Margaret (she is our daughter) decided to move to Kinuso as it was the closest town to his work in the Oil Fields. He was driving his truck pulling their House Trailer, going down the Valley road looking for a place to park, when they met a man who turned out to be Marvin (Mike) Hunt. They asked him if he knew of a place where they could park, and he said they could park it alongside their house which they did and were very happy there.

In April of 1964, their first was born. I was staying with Margaret, and Bruce was working nights. Doris Hunt said if Margaret needed to go to hospital during the night, to give them a call and Mike would drive to High Prairie. Well, as it usually happens it was during the night. I went over to Mike's but he couldn't get the car started, so he used the school bus, 42 seater. Doris went along too. She'd gathered blankets, scissors, etc., just in case anything should happen on the way as it was 58 miles to the hospital. We made it O.K. The next morning when Bruce came home, he just bathed and changed and went to the hospital. The little Treasure was born soon after we got there, a girl, Catherine Elizabeth (Cathy). In the fall of 1964, Bruce bought a farm just south of Mr. Frasers on the Swan Hills road.

June 1965, we visited Margaret and Bruce and they were expecting their second little Treasure. Saturday 28, she went to hospital and was kept in. Sunday night we had a flash flood. Water poured across the road north and south of the farm, in fact we were surrounded. It was too deep for the car to go through. About 1 mile south of the farm was the Forestry. Sandy Donaldson was the Ranger there. He and his wife Lorraine were worried about Margaret, so he came to the farm in his 4 wheel drive, to say the Forestry had a helicopter standing by in case Margaret had to be taken out. When he learned she was already in hospital, he and Jack took off to town to phone the hospital. They couldn't get through because the lines were down, so Sandy got in touch with the Forestry in

High Prairie by radio. They phoned the hospital, then radioed back to say Margaret had a baby daughter. She was named Anna Elaine.

We were going back and forth between Rocky Mountain House and Kinuso about every other week-end, so Margaret and Bruce suggested we sell our place and build a house on their farm, which we did in the fall of 1965, and built a house in 1966.

January 20th, 1968, Margaret and Bruce's third daughter was born, Susan Margaret, with no trouble that time. June 1968, a forest fire swept through Swan Hills. Sunday evening Jack and I took a drive nearly to Mile 8 to see how far away it was from us. It was the other side of the river, so we went home to a good nights sleep. The next morning Jack and Bruce went to see if the fire had advanced our way. They came hurrying back after a few minutes and said for Margaret and I to get the children into the car and take off. The fire was following them right along, so we went to Mike Hunt's place. Just after we left, I. V. Neal of the Forestry was going by. He stopped to talk to Jack, said he didn't know about this fire. He had a stand by crew with a water truck at Mile 8, so he dashed off to get them. They saturated the outside of our house, which saved it. Bruce had just built a granery and chicken house. They went up in smoke as did Margaret's chickens and turkeys.

February 1969, Margaret and Bruce had another little Treasure, Sandra Eileen. All went well.

April 1st, 1971, Margaret and Bruce's 5th daughter was born Linda Holly. We were looking after the 4 little ones whilst she was in hospital. Sunday 4th, Jack said he was going over to see Bruce. Before he went, he opened the basement door to be met by a lot of black smoke. He couldn't go down the stairs because the smoke was too thick. I had asked the girls if they wanted their baths before supper or after supper. They said before. They were all pretty small and could all get in together and were having a whale of a time, when Jack called out "Get the kids out of the tub quick, the house is on fire." I don't think I ever moved so quickly before. I got them dried and dressed, then coats and boots on. There was quite a bit of snow still on the ground and out to the car. Jack drove us over to Bruce's house. We weren't able to save anything. Jack wouldn't let me go back into the house. The fire had started in the basement, therefore floors were likely to give way. We were so thankful that no lives were lost. April 29th, Margaret looked in on the baby just before we had supper. She was O.K. Jack and I were doing the dishes and afterwards Margaret went to get the baby. She called out for Bruce, and after awhile he came out and told us the baby had died. That was sure shock. She hadn't suffocated. The doctor said it was Crib death.

We were getting too old to start building again, so Bruce and Margaret suggested we buy a Mobile Home, which we did in May 1971. The community put on a shower at the Legion Hall for us. We received a lot of useful things, which were appreciated.

1975, we bought a lot in town. Jack hand't been well for quite awhile. He thought he'd like to be nearer to the nurse. Moved trailer.

The oil company for whom Bruce worked asked him if he would go to England for 1 year. He talked it over with Margaret. They decided to go. They and the girls left June 1975. Instead of 1 year, they were there 3 years. Jack and I went over in 1975 for Christmas and New Years. Bruce, Margaret and girls were over June 1976 for holidays. We went to England to visit them February 1977.

Jack passed away suddenly the 18th. January 1978, Bruce and Margaret came over. They had to go back to England the following week and they took me with them. We all returned to Canada May 1978, they to live on their farm, and I in town.

Well I think this brings us up to date.

The Sharratt Family

Submitted by Margaret (Sharratt) Strok

We went up to Kinuso the spring of 1947, April. I believe the men folk went with a box car with horses, furniture, etc. The first of May, my sister-in-law, Mrs. Lyndon Sharratt and I went up along with their two youngest boys. Paul had gone ahead with the men in the car with the furnishings and animals.

The reasons for going there was that Mr. Rand had lived there for some time and he had painted such a beautiful picture of Kinuso and all the possibilities there were up here. Mr. Rand, I am sure many people there will still remember, took up a homestead and being a carpenter, he built his own buildings and was so interested in cutting lumber, that he encouraged Dad and my brother to go up there too and get into a sawmill business. So my brother Lyndon bought an old steam engine to run the saw with. But he could not run the engine, so my husband Irwin went up to help out by running the steam engine.



Mrs. Irvin Sharratt and father Warren Sharratt, and brother Lyndon.

This was our reason for going but after a very short summer my brother could see the picture was not as rosy as it had been painted and he could not carry on. Mainly because his family were so unhappy and there was not the proper school for his boys at that time. So they went back to Edmonton in September and spent the winter there, returning to California the following May.

Circumstances held us at Kinuso for nearly five years at which time my husband Irwin's health gave

out and he was taken to Edmonton in June 1952. He never returned. I made five trips back and forth to Edmonton that summer arranging with neighbors to look after stock etc. Then I made my final trip November 10, 1952.

My husband passed away March 8, 1953. He was a veteran of the last war.

During our stay at Kinuso, the little community church was built and my husband and my dad had their part in the building of it along with a number of other friends and neighbors.

My dad lived to be 97 years and 6 months, passing away February 26, 1972. My brother is now retired and lives in Paradise, California. His family are all in California.

I remained a widow from March 1953 until October 8, 1960, when I married a wonderful man, Lincoln H. Strok from Waterloo, Ontario, that I had met in 1958.

I can only say the Lord has directed me into many pleasant places and I have met many wonderful people and I want to thank and praise the Lord for his goodness to me.

I still keep in touch with Nina and Mike Skrynyk and through them hear of neighbors I used to know. Mike's parents were very close and real friends to us. I should say too that we had wonderful neighbors in the Nome brothers. Jasper worked for us in the sawmill and lumber was sawed for many people, who bought their logs and carried away their lumber.

Mr. and Mrs. Fred Sheldon

As told by Lily Sheldon

Frederick Palmer Sheldon was born in London, England in 1892. Coming to Alberta as a young lad of 17, he worked at odd jobs until taking work with a bricklayer and learning the trade.



Mr. and Mrs. Fred Sheldon in 1943.

When the First World War broke out he enlisted with a Calgary Regiment, the Sixty-third Battalion, C.E.F., Calgary, on the 23rd of July. While stationed in Edmonton he met his future wife who had come from Bedfordshire, England to work in Canada. Miss Stanton returned to England in 1916. Mr. Sheldon was stationed overseas for four years and was dis-

charged from the Army on March 8, 1919 and returned to Calgary, Alberta.

Previous to going overseas, he had filed on a homestead at Cannerville, 30 miles from Hanna. When he returned to Alberta he built a house and started farming.



Fred Sheldon's picnic — 1947.

Left to right: Mr. and Mrs. John Reeves, Mr. and Mrs. Sam Kool, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Sheldon, Gladys and Stan Sheldon.

Miss Stanton returning to Canada in 1920, married Mr. Sheldon on April 14, 1920 at St. Mark's Anglican Church in Calgary. They farmed at Cannerville for several years and two of their children — Stan and Nina — were born there. Moving to the adjoining district of Mizpah they took over a larger farm, also taking charge of the local post office and the mail carrying from Carolside. Their son George was born there.

In 1931 the drought and dust storms became so bad they decided to move, as did most of their neighbours. A number of families, with boxcar loads of stock and belongings, went to different parts of Alberta.

The Sheldon family and the Ed English family came to Kinuso. The Sheldons rented a farm from Mr. McKillop, the Kinuso Post Master, who was acting as an agent for the owner, Stanley Larson (son of Mrs. Dora Harrison). Stanley Larson had traded it from the original homesteader, who was known as Kentucky Hall.



Mrs. Lily Sheldon's 90th Birthday. Taken with her grandchildren.

Coming to Kinuso in September 1931, the Sheldon family later bought the farm which they still own

today. Another quarter adjoining the farm was bought from Lorne Perkins, the original homesteader, and later our own homestead was proved up.

About 1957 Mr. Sheldon's health failed and he retired from active work, although still living on the farm. About 1967, Mr. Sheldon became very ill from a stroke and was taken to the Veteran's hospital at Vancouver, B.C. He became quite helpless and another severe stroke rendered him unconscious. February 18, 1968 he passed away.

Mrs. Sheldon lives with her daughter, Mrs. A. R. Kenny, at Cloverdale, B.C. and still enjoys a yearly visit to Kinuso.



Art and Nina (Sheldon) — March 1945.

George, the Sheldon's youngest son, has also passed away at the time of this writing. Stan still lives in Kinuso with his family.

George Sheldon

Born July 10, 1927 at what was to be called Mizpah, Alberta to Lily and Fredrick Sheldon.

The family moved to Kinuso where George received his education and helped his father on the farm. George's father retired in 1957, passing the farm on to George.

George loved the farm and took great pride in his cattle. He bought his first registered cow in 1949 and continued to increase his herd from that time on.

George had a couple of real characters on the farm

too. One a Border Scotch Collie called Tim. Tim was a good cattle dog and was always there to help out when you were having trouble. He also enjoyed fetching the ducks from the river and leaving them on the other side of the river. Tim was George's constant companion.

The other character was "Fanny" the cat. She liked to hide under the table and attack anything with two legs. Fanny and Tim made quite a pair.

George always had time for adventure. He once rescued a baby moose after it's mother had been shot. It wasn't unusual to see a full grown moose wandering around the farm yard.



1958 — George Sheldon and his Bear Trap.



1948 — George Sheldon and Alvin Lillo.

George always had trouble with predators. If it wasn't timber wolves it was bears. He lost nine head of cattle before, with the assistance of Al Oeming from the Al Oeming Game Farm out of Edmonton, they were able to trap the female grizzly in a culvert trap. Loading the grizzly in the back of George's one-ton Mercury truck they paraded the streets in town to give people a look at the bear.

George was well liked by all the young people in the area. He always had time for his friends. He was always willing and ready to have practice rodeos where the young riders had a chance to practice on his cattle.

George enjoyed hunting and fishing and many will remember the fish fries and good times at Eula Creek which is still a favorite fishing spot for many of his friends.

Over the years George's health began to fail and on November 20, 1971 he died of cancer.

James Sheldon

(As told by James Sheldon)

I was born June 22, 1950 in High Prairie, Alberta to Stan Sheldon and Gladys (Bajer).

Living on a farm I learned to ride horses at an early age. With the help of George Sheldon and taking part in the practice rodeos held at this farm I was soon riding in the Little Britches rodeo events. It was then I first heard the phrase "it's tough to be a Cowboy." As I grew older I continued to take part in the Kinuso Rodeo, taking first place in 1969 with Allen Giroux and Dennis Posgate in the wild horse race.

I attended school in Kinuso until grade 9 finishing

my high school in Edmonton. While attending school I worked evenings in the Chateau Lacombe. I often wondered how people would react if they knew a farm boy who normally cleaned barns, skinned weasels and such was serving their meals.

Finishing high school I returned to Kinuso where I met Cheryl Armitage. We were married in 1971 and lived in Edmonton where I worked on construction jobs.

Hearing of my Uncle George's ill health we returned to Kinuso to lend him a hand. I had spent a lot of time as a youngster on his farm helping out with the chores, fishing and hunting.

Upon his death my Uncle left me a share of the farm. Purchasing the remainder of the farm I went into the cattle raising business. A lot of credit goes to my family who run the farm during the winter months while I work on the oil rigs. In this way we are able to increase our herd and make improvements on the farm.

My wife, Cheryl and I have three children, Brent, Leighanne and Collin.

Stan Sheldon and Family

written by Stan

My father, Fred Sheldon, was born in Essex, a suburb of London, England, the son of a "Gardener", but didn't know a thing about livestock, or how to handle them. However, he adapted easily, and always had a good herd of cattle, hogs, etc.

My mother, "Lily" Sheldon, was born on a farm in Bedford Shire, England. She could ride or drive the "spookiest" of horses. After the first World War, they homesteaded on the "Bull Pound Creek", in Alberta, Canada, about 30 miles south of Hanna, Alberta, where I was born, and also my sister "Nina".

Later, they moved a mile east, and took over the "MIZPAH" post office, where George was born. Some of the old timers said the word "MIZPAH", meant "may God watch between me and thee". The cowboys said it meant, "may God keep an eye on the old man, when I can't". Mother made the weekly trip by team, which was about 24 miles round trip, to haul the mail, with a team and buggy, in the summer months.

When the prairie dried out, the people all left for "Peace River" country, and (other greener pastures) places where there was more moisture. Each settler was given 2 box cars, free of freight charges. My family were the last to leave "MIZPAH", so it soon ceased to exist. Now, a big highway runs through what used to be our school yard. We left the driest part of Canada, and found ourselves in the opposite extreme.

Dad was lucky though, he was the only one out of a group of settlers, that had \$75.00 cash to rent the N.W. 30-73-9-W5th, which was the place he lived on for the rest of his working years, until he turned it over to my brother, George, who died in 1972.

When they arrived on the place, it only had 2 acres open, barely enough room to park the machinery



Jim, Cheryl, Collin, Leighanne and Brent Sheldon.

used to farm a section where we came from.

We arrived in Kinuso around the 13th of August, and had to start haying right away, and even then the grass was frozen before we could get much feed up. However, there was a warm barn on the place, and Dad traded cattle for hay. In that way, Dad pulled the rest of the cattle through, but some of the horses died of swamp fever; not being used to the wet climate.

Many settlers from the Prairie didn't fare so well. My Dad was a crack shot with a rifle, but he didn't have the faintest idea about big game hunting. However, he traded some of the machinery to the Indians for moose-meat, and hauled cull fish, such as perch, pickerel, and jack fish from the lake. There was only sale for the best white fish, the rest was left on the ice in big piles, but it was all good for eating. We hauled big loads of this fish home in a 60 bu. grain box, with team and horses. My mother canned 100 quarts of fish, and she'd can 100 quarts of moose-meat every year, with also some small game. We grew a large garden full of vegetables, tame strawberries, and raspberries, and in this way we lived like kings.

I would say here, that schooling was quite a problem for us kids, in those days. My brother George, sister Nina, and I walked to school, 3½ miles across country, and along the track. We learned all about the hardships of travelling, as we had to break trail most every morning and night. This was due to the north-west winds coming in to town along the track. I am sure that last mile from the tank, up to the town, is the coldest distance in the world! After school, the trails were quite often drifted full again. When we got home from school, Dad would have a load of hay drawn up in front of the loft, ready for us kids to feed the stock. When that was done, there was the wood to cut for the night. This was from big old tamarack trees and cut with a cross-cut saw. Even after all this, we would go back to town to a Friday night dance, or a Saturday night show.

At grade 8, my folks finally gave up trying to send me to school, so I stayed home and worked on the farm. About half of the breaking on the north ½ of 30, was done with horses. Dad and I dug a ditch by hand, the full half mile, about 2 feet by 1½ feet deep. We did the breaking with 6 horses and a 16 inch breaking plow.

Dad had only planned on renting for a short while, so had homesteaded 2 quarters of land. He had a house nearly ready to move into, when he got a chance to buy the "Hall and Perkin's" places, so we never had the hardships that some other settlers had. Some people drove their horses and cattle in this country over road, and landed here without a roof over their heads. They came from as far away as Hanna to the Peace River country, which was a distance of 200-500 miles.

Life was hard in those days, but we always found something to do. The neighbor kids would gather for sliding on the river bank, and sometimes we only had a sheet of cardboard or a scoop shovel for a toboggan. In the summer it was scrub ball, swimming, or rafting on the Swan River, shooting fish in Eula Creek, or listening to gramophone records.

Once, while swimming in the river, about a mile from Kinuso, I got swept into deep water, and nearly drowned. I had gone down for a third time, when Louis Olsen grabbed me by the hair, and managed to pull me out. (My nine year old son, Brian, refuses to believe I ever had that much hair). When I was under water I screamed bloody murder, but I didn't know it. Everything seemed so peaceful; just like I had gone to sleep. The kids managed to pump the water out of me, but the next day we were back in the same spot, taking the same chances.

In those days we were responsible (or irresponsible) for our own recreation, but we always had lots of fun. Not like modern times, where adults will drive a "Pee-wee" ball team for hundreds of miles to compete in so-called sports, and show poor sportsmanship, because they can't afford to lose, after spending all that money, and driving on the kids to the point of exhaustion.

After a short stint in the Service, I returned to Kinuso and took land through the "Veteran's Land Act", and started pioneering all over again.

In the summer of 1931, we put up hay of the "Lake Shore", putting up 25 big stacks of hay with horses, with 15 to 20 tons per stack. We camped right across the road from Sangsters. Mrs. Sangster was so glad to have near neighbors, that she brought us a pail of strawberries, and a jar of cream, nearly every day, and wouldn't take a penny. I had the hay baled, and made a trip every day, from February 10th to March 30th. (A distance of 13 miles with horses). When I was nearly through, I found out I could have sold the whole lot on the spot, and saved all that work!

We had originally planned on raising mink, and had just taken the land for a place to live, and for speculation. However, the mink business petered out, and so we kept improving the land. Later the mink business picked up again; we built a small mill to make mink cereal. This promised to be a gold mine, but the mink business collapsed — this time for good. I traded a two year old heifer for a bred female mink, valued at \$35.00. Today the same heifer would be worth between \$700.00 to \$800.00.

After returning from the services, Gladys Bajer, a local girl, and I were married. We had four children, Dianna, Jim, Ken, and Joyce. After 11 years, Gladys and I separated.

Dianna — married Ray Doerkson, they have two boys, Cody, and Kyle, and live in Spruce Grove.

Jim — married Cheryl Armitage, and they live in Kinuso on a farm. Their story will be told in later pages of this book.

Ken — married Jean Hunt; they have one son Keith. Ken works on the "rigs" in the winter time, and operates his own gravel truck in summer.

Joyce — is now in India.

I continued living on my land, and my sons Jim and Ken lived with me for quite awhile, until they got older. We cleared and broke more land, but the more we got under cultivation, the worse off we were. Every time we got flooded out, the more seed we had to buy the next year. Between the floods and the 60¢ barley, we had to quit trying to grain farm. However,

we had a fair herd of cattle, so have managed to make hay, and pasture around the flooded spots. This district is still at the mercy of the floods, but I hope future readers will see a great deal of improvement. We used to have floods about every 10 years, but since the oil development, we have averaged one a year.



Stan and Gladys Sheldon's Wedding.



Stan and Gladys' family: Dea, Jim, Joyce, and Ken.

Elsie and I have four children: Brenda, Janet, Connie and Brian.

Brenda — lives in Victoria and goes to school.

Connie — born in 1964 in Kinuso, is taking her grade 9 in the local school.

Janet — born in 1967, also is taking her schooling in Kinuso.

Brian — 9 years old now in 1979. Growing up in Kinuso and going to school here.

The Life of Clarence Shoop

The early years of Clarence Shoop's life wasn't easy, in 1896. He was from a family of 12 brothers and sisters. Clarence was born in Smithfield, Neb., U.S.A. At a young age he moved to Texas, U.S.A. with his folks. Most of his young life, he spent riding the ranges rounding up cattle, and breaking wild horses; he was an all around cowboy. Now, how he came to Canada is a very unusual story. One of the cowboys was arrested for murder, on the cattle drive to Canada, so the boss asked Clarence if he would take his place. He said he would. After the drive was finished, he went back to Texas. It was now 1914, and Clarence and his brother Bob did not want to go to war, so they left Texas.

* * * * *

This is a true story, written by his daughter, Fern Shoop, of Kinuso.

* * * * *

In World War I, when they were drafting men in the American Army, Clarence decided that he did not want to go to war. That fall, he and his brother Bob, packed their gear and headed into the bush. Their gear consisted of guns, shells, traps, food stuffs, and clothes. They went into a secluded part of the Swan Hills, where it would be hard to be found. They built several log cabins that they could hide out in, putting food and ammunition and bedding in each of them, so that if one was found they could go on to another.

By this time, winter was coming on, so they got their traps and started a trap line, but the R.C.M.P. were looking very hard for them. This meant that they had to be extremely careful and keep watch all the time. Many times the Mounties were following one of their trails and they would follow along behind, watching them through the sights of their guns. They said, that if they were caught, they would fight it out instead of surrendering. They wore their guns and ammunition belts all the time, even at night. They had a friend who would take food and ammunition into the hills to them and bring their fur pelts out and sell them for them. In this way they lived very comfortably for four years, and until all danger of being caught was past.

It is said that the R.C.M.P. always get their men, but they never got my father.

After the war ended, Clarence and his brother came out of the Swan Hills, and resumed their lives.

They worked around Fort Assinaboine, in logging camps, and trapped during the winter months. His brother Bob returned to Texas but Clarence liked Canada, so he stayed and ran a ferry at Holmes Crossing for awhile, near Fort Assinaboine. This is where the Gallaghers first met Clarence when they were coming in over the Klondike Trail to the Swan Valley.

Settlers started coming into Canada, to find their

fortunes and a new way of life; a lot of them went farther, towards Lesser Slave Lake. Clarence, not wanting to miss the excitement, followed the influx of people. He panned gold in the Athabasca River finally working his way around Lesser Slave Lake to a place, now called Swan River (Kinuso). It looked pretty good to a lot of those early pioneers at that time, with lush green grass, and lots of trees to be cut down to be made into houses for homes.

But, now we won't mention, the black flies, the mosquitos, the wild animals, wagons getting stuck in muskegs, and getting lost, trying to find new land and places.

They (the pioneers) all put in big gardens, and with the cattle they brought with them, had lots of butter and milk for their use. The only entertainment they had they made themselves, with music and dances about every week. Fern says "lots of people will remember them." It was at one of these dances that Clarence met his future wife: a pretty wee girl by the name of Annie Whitford. They later married in Peace River, Alberta. After the marriage, they lived in Faust, where Clarence worked for the William Menzie Fish Co.

Later, he homesteaded north of Kinuso. Fern, Bill, and Rex were born there the following years.

In 1927 Clarence sold out, and he and his family moved to Texas. After a stay of two years, Clarence began missing his old stamping ground around Kinuso, so he returned in 1929. His wife, Annie and his three children weren't so anxious to come back as they enjoyed the warm climate of Texas. The children loved the snakes, turtles, and the fish. After returning to Canada, we moved to the Swan River Valley where Elsie was born in 1935 and Sylvia in 1936.



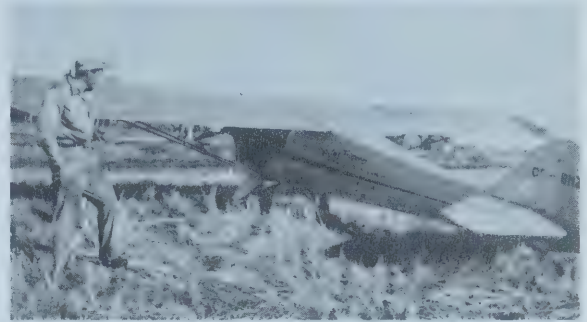
Clarence Shoop, beside the plane he and his sons bought; they were known as the Flying Trappers of the North.

The depression had just started and wages were fifty cents a day, eggs five cents per dozen. Mom put in a big garden and canned lots of wild berries. Dad trapped and sold furs. We always knew we would have something on the table even if we did not have shoes on our feet to go to school. Mom was a wonderful cook and seamstress, so we made it through the depression fairly well.

Our Mom died in 1937, so the burden of raising the family fell on me (Fern) at 15 years. In the fall of 1938 I contracted 'Astro Tuberculosis' of the bone. For the next 15 years I was confined to an Edmonton

hospital where it was finally cured with the new drug 'streptomycin.' It was a real miracle.

Now in 1939, war was again declared, Bill was called up and while in the army, he took up flying. After his discharge, he and dad (Clarence), and brother Rex, bought a plane. It was a "Tiger Moth," and they were known as "The Flying Trappers of the Northland."



Billy Shoop, 1949.

Elsie Shoop finished school in Kinuso and was known as a very outstanding athlete. Later, during the war she joined the Airforce. After the War, she took Nurses' training.

Sylvia Shoop, the youngest girl, died at the age of 22 years, of a brain tumor, so we all had sadness as well as lots of happiness. Clarence trapped for over 40 years in the Swan Hills. He was well liked by all who knew him, for his great sense of humor.

He always had a smile and a story to tell, he died at the age of 73 years on his way to visit his son.

Life History of "The Skrynyk Family"

John Skrynyk was born in Poland on May 25, 1896. He remained with his parents working their farm up until the time he was married. In 1923, at the age of 27, he was married to Margaret Kaskow and one year later, November 8th, 1924 their one and only son, Mike, was born. The following year, 1925, at the age of 29, he decided to come to Canada leaving his wife, Margaret and son, Mike, behind for ten years.

When John came to Canada he lived first in Lamont, Alberta where he worked on a farm for Adolph Huculak's grandfather. In order to work out his passport, he remained there for two years then he decided to move to Manitoba where he would be closer to his cousin, Netty Olyniuk. For the next two years John worked as a barber but realized that wasn't his trade. He then returned to Alberta to work in saw mills and farm labour.

In 1933 he came to Kinuso to file on a homestead — N.W. ¼, 34-73-10-W5. The land was just 3¼ miles N.W. of the town. Here John was close to his friend Harry McRee as they were both raised in Poland. After the homestead was filed John wanted to bring his wife and son to Canada. After one year of immigration correspondence he sent the passport out to his wife in Poland. In 1934 Margaret and Mike came to Canada arriving in Montreal to stay for two days. John, his wife and their son reunited, after ten



Mr. and Mrs. John Skrynyk and Mike — 1934.

years, in Star, Alberta. They remained in Star for two years living on a friend's farm.

In 1936 John moved his family onto his homestead in Kinuso. Here they began to build a log house and also clearing of the land — all of the work was done by hand. Later on in the years Bill Card was hired with his TD6 cat and the clearing became easier. There were no designated roads to go by. In order to get to Kinuso we had to pick our way through the woods.

For a long time there were no horses to provide our working power or transportation. Luckily Charlie and Ella Wood were living a half a mile past our farm and they would bring us flour and food with the aid of their horses. Slowly progressing to a team of horses, then a tractor and in 1951 to an International $\frac{3}{4}$ ton truck was a big change for us all.

I began my school years in Kinuso at the age of twelve. My day included walking $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles to and from school. I recall my lunch box to be a 3 lb. lard pail and I remember how times were tough but I came out rosy cheeked and healthy. I continued my schooling up to the 8th grade then quit and went to look for work. In 1942, at the age of 17, I began working as a

labourer on a railroad section in Kinuso. Here my wage was 30 cents an hour — 8 hours a day. I remember my first cheque was \$33.60. To me this seemed like a lot of money compared to what the farm produced.

My work carried me to High Prairie. It was while I worked in High Prairie that I began courting Nina Halaburda. One year later, on July 25, 1943, we were married.



The Skrynyk home — 1975.

We began our married life in Kinuso living with my parents on their farm. The following year on June 28, 1944 our first daughter, Helene Margaret was born. In 1946 I bought $\frac{1}{4}$ section of land and moved my family to their own homestead. I carried on working on the railroad. To get to work and back I used a one horse sleigh during the winter and pedaled a bike in the summer until 1950. It was then that I bought a tractor which was to serve as my means of transportation as well as my tools for working the farm.

Our daughter, Helene began her schooling in 1950. At this time there was a school bus consisting of a team of horses and a caboose. Helene had to walk $\frac{1}{2}$ mile before she could catch this bus.

The following year on August 27, 1951 our second child, Fred James, was born. He later attended school with his older sister.

In 1953 on the 30th day of May our third child, Mae Nina, was born.

I worked on the railroad and farmed at the same time for some 14 years when I decided to buy a D4 cat. It was then that I worked with the Department of Highways building district roads in the summertime and logging in the winter. I continued this job for 8 years. During this time a son, Micheal John Nicholas, was born to us on May 24th, 1958 and a daughter, Annette Lucille on April 24th, 1960.

In 1964 I sold my D4 cat to George Gallagher and remained at my farming full time. By this time I had already bought 4 quarters of land. The S.W. $\frac{1}{4}$ 34-73-

10-5 was purchased in 1946 and the N.E. ¼, 34-73-10-5 was purchased in 1958. The N.E. section was previously the old Fred McDaniel place and it was all bush area. In 1960 another ½ section — south half of 33-73-10-W5 was purchased. This section previously was Ross Sandmans'. A year later on July 1, 1961 my father passed away after an illness due to cancer. This left my mother and I and my family to carry on.

I raised grain and around 200 head of cattle keeping the family healthy and strong.

In 1964 the sixth and final child of ours — Kenneth Daniel was born on October 12, 1964.

Mother still lives on the same place by herself. At the age of 75 she still milks a cow and keeps a few chickens and a big garden. She also thinks nothing of taking a tractor to go to town or visit some neighbours.



Mrs. Nina Skrynyk coming by boat from milking the cow.

At present we still remain on the farm. Our oldest daughter, Helene, graduated from Kinuso school to go to work in Edmonton. It was there that she met Roy Sadler. They were married in 1964 and now have a family of four — Roy Nathan Jr. 15 years; Derek Lee 8 years; Kevin Trent 7 years; and Brandi Farrah Dawn 2 years of age.

Our second child, Fred James, completed his grade 12 in Edmonton. From there he moved back to the farm but was employed on Oil Rigs in the Arctic for two years. He then went to truck driving and on returning to Kinuso he went on to marry Lillian Plante, a neighbour's daughter. They now have two children — Eldon Kile 4 years; and Cheri Dale Marie 2 years. He now works for P.A.S. Transport in Slave Lake where they have made their home.

Mae Nina, our third child, completed her schooling in Edmonton also. She remained in Edmonton working at Crosstown Motor City and it was there she met George Prefontaine who in 1974 became her husband. Born to them was Corey Shane, now 4 years old and Tracy Roxanne who is 2 years of age. They

make their home in Edmonton.

Michael John Nicholas was to graduate from school in High Prairie. From there he returned to the farm and held employment in the Oil Patch, driving our water truck and skidding trees. He is now thinking in terms of married life.

Annette Lucille also graduated from E. W. Pratt school in High Prairie. Upon completion of school she continued to work in High Prairie then returned to the farm for a short time and is now on her way to work in Edmonton.

The last child, Kenneth Daniel, still remains at home going to school in Kinuso and is hoping to complete his grade 12 also. He has hopes of taking over his father's farm after his schooling.

We are sure proud of present holdings with our nice family and our grandchildren.

Mike and Nina Skrynyk

Bonnie and Earl Sloan

I was born in 1942, my parents are Merle and Charley VanDerMark, they named me Bonnie, that same year Earl Sloan was born to Hercel and Delta Sloan.

Our parents were both farmers and we went to the same school. When we were fifteen we started going together and two years later we were married.



Earl and Bonnie Sloan and family, Hercel and Delta Sloan (seated).

We bought a house from Earl's uncle for two hundred dollars, it was very small — just two rooms, but we fixed it up and bought new furniture, Earl's brother-in-law, Mert Cuthbert built our kitchen cupboards, when we finished it looked real nice.

The first few months of our marriage were spent on his father's farm, where Earl helped his father and grandfather with the farming and I learned to cook.

We lived just across the yard from Earl's Mom and Dad and across the field from Earl's sister Doris and

her husband Mert Cuthbert. Earl's Grandparents, Jesse and Nell Sloan lived on the farm also. At first it seemed rather strange to me to have so many people around but soon found I rather enjoyed it.

That fall Earl went to work for Kiss Construction at House-Mountain, as we had no vehicle to drive back and forth we had to stay up there, he got tired of my complaining, I think, and had Mert build a little shack to move up there. It was one room with a bed, oil stove, cook stove and table. After a few weeks the oil stove quit on us, the only way it would work was to pour the diesel in the burner and light it, if you poured too much the stove would roar and jump up and down. I spent most of my time outside waiting for it to calm down, we finally gave up and bought an air tight heater. I stayed there until our first daughter Cindy was born, the family convinced me that I shouldn't take a baby up there so I didn't go back.

That spring Earl bought a truck and went hauling gravel, for the next four years he hauled gravel in the summer and logs in the winter. In Feb. 1961 our second daughter Laura was born and in 1964 we had a son, Michael.

The next summer Earl quit trucking and bought two quarters of land and went farming with his father and grandfather.

In 1966 Earl's brother Ken and his wife moved onto the farm.

Earl continued to farm and work out during the winter months.

He bought a small sawmill and spent a lot of time sawing lumber.

Doris and Mert moved to High Prairie, and Earl's grandfather got sick and had to go to the Nursing Home. (His grandmother had passed away in 1969). Earl's mother and dad moved to High Prairie to be near Grandpa. Not long after Ken and Sharon moved off the farm. So all of a sudden we were all by ourselves, it took quite awhile to get used to it being so quiet.

On August 30, 1975 our oldest daughter Cindy married Phillip Campiou, that winter she had a little boy, Jeremy, and all of a sudden we found ourselves grandparents. I don't know whether we were trying to prove we weren't that old or what, but six months later our third daughter Sarah Dawn was born, and six months later Laura had a little girl, Vickie. All of a sudden our quiet little world wasn't quiet any more.

Cindy's marriage didn't work out so most of the time we had the three little ones together, life got pretty hectic at times but watching three babies that close together is an experience I wouldn't have missed for anything.

Last fall Cindy and Laura rented a house in High Prairie and moved their family there, and once more it's quiet at our house.

Earl is still farming the same land his grandfather Jesse Sloan farmed when he came to this country in 1909.

Unless he changes his mind, our son Michael will be farming it when we're done.

Delta and Hercel Sloan

Delta and Hercel were married near High Prairie March 23, 1928 at the home of Delta's parents, Grace and Cage Brown. Staying the rest of the year at the Brown home.

Early in 1929 they returned to Swan Valley. Here Hercel helped his father and brothers on the farm, at that time they milked 24 to 25 cows.

On March 21 of that year, Helen was born in Grandma Wolfe's Maternity Home in High Prairie, they stayed with Delta's parents who then lived north of High Prairie for a time. Arriving back in Swan Valley in the spring they moved into the McLean house and Hercel farmed the land, with machinery and etc., supplied by his father. In the fall they harvested a car load of wheat which was shipped to Edmonton, as there was no elevator in Kinuso at that time. At the age of four months Helen had the whooping cough.



Hercel and Delta Sloan at home in Kinuso.

In the year 1932 Hercel built a house of our own on the corner of the Jesse Sloan farm. Jim Grono helped with the finishing work. Later in the year Delta, with Helen went to stay with her parents in High Prairie and on January 3, 1933 Doris was born at the Brown home. Later that year Grandpa Brown passed away. In the year of 1946 Grace Brown passed away of a stroke in the High Prairie hospital. Her mother, Clara Sloan, who had been living with her came back to Swan Valley to live near Delta and Hercel for 3 or 4 years. She became ill and was taken to the High Prairie hospital where she passed away at the age of 87 years. She was buried beside her husband Thomas Sloan in the Swan Valley cemetery.

In the year 1937 Jessie was born at home. At the time Grandma Sloan was able to help take care of them.

In 1942 Earl was born in the High Prairie Hospital, at this time Hercel was still working with his father.

Later in the year we bought a house and moved to Peoria, Alta., we lived there until 1944. While living there Hercel worked at different jobs. In the winter of 1943 he worked with Bob Moody at Woking cutting logs, later on he worked for a mill owner at Peoria. In

the spring he worked for Fred Rusweg on his farm. While at Peoria Helen, Doris, and Jessie who was just starting school attended the Peace River Academy.

Later that fall we moved back to Swan Valley where Hercel started working with his father again. That fall Helen left for Lacombe to attend College Heights where she finished grades 10 and 11. The next term she took grade 12 in High Prairie High School. From there she went to North Star, Alberta to supervise in an Elementary school for two terms.

In the year 1944 Kenneth was born in High Prairie Hospital. In July 1945 Hercel, Delta and family and Elsie and Raymond and family went to a camp meeting at Peoria.

During these years our children Doris, Earl, and Kenneth went to school in the valley school. Later the schools were consolidated and the valley children were taken by bus to Kinuso School.

In the year 1949 our youngest child, Donna was born in the High Prairie Hospital. She took most of her schooling in Kinuso, taking grade twelve in Fairview, Alberta in 1966-1967 term. After which she worked in the Royal Bank in Kinuso for a while. Donna married Carl Ducommun in 1968 and they moved to Calgary.

In 1966 Hercel's parents moved to Hercel and Delta's home where Nellie Sloan passed away suddenly April 30, 1969. Jesse continued to live there until 1973 when he was taken to the High Prairie Hospital for an appendicitis operation. From there he was taken to J. B. Wood's Nursing Home where he remained until he passed away on August 19, 1975 at the age of 92, one month before his 93rd birthday.

During the time Grandpa was in the hospital, Hercel and I left the farm and moved to an apartment in High Prairie where Hercel could visit his father often.

We stayed in High Prairie until March 1977 then moved into a new Senior Citizens unit in the town of Kinuso where we are still living. We still miss the farm and spend a few days there with our oldest son Earl who lives on the old home place which is still home to us any time we want to go there.

MARRIAGES OF OUR FAMILY

Helen married Howard Greer October 20, 1950 and lives in High Prairie.

Doris married Murray Cuthbert February 26, 1952 and they live in High Prairie also.

Jessie married Albert Cauchie May 14, 1955. They live near Valleyview, Alberta.

Earl married Bonnie Vandermark August 6, 1959 and they live in Swan Valley.

Kenneth married Sharon Roe on October 2, 1963 and they live in Swan Valley.

Delta and Hercel celebrated their 50th anniversary on March 25, 1978 with a banquet put on by their family in Kinuso Legion Hall with many friends and relatives attending.

Dennis Raymond Sloan

Dennis Raymond Sloan, first son of Raymond and

Elsie Sloan was born in the High Prairie Hospital July 28th, 1944.

He lived some of his early years up the valley with his family and Mike McNamara. He was a popular little friend of Mike's and spent as much time with Mike as he did with his family. He fondly remembers his first trip to Edmonton with Mike in which the many sights of the city were seen for the first time. Denny and his family also lived at other various places in the Valley including many years at the Harrison Place. His parents eventually moved to the Swan Valley Ranger Station after his Dad had joined the Forestry.

Denny grew up as most boys did at that time doing various things from milking cows twice a day, carrying firewood, trapping, hunting and camping. A favorite passtime was the trips to the cabin built by Ken Sloan and Denny with help from Dick, Alvin and Earl Sloan. Many enjoyable hours were spent here and the cabin still stands today though the boys have grown too tall to stand in it. Denny belonged, as a boy, to a club called the Six Scouts. The club was limited in its membership due to its title.

Denny received all his schooling at the Kinuso School. He worked at a few jobs around Kinuso and then left for Grande Prairie and did a variety of jobs from going into the saw mill business to cat skinning to breaking horses. At this time he also became interested in the World of Rodeo.

He participated in the saddle bronc Event, bareback and bull riding. He travelled through both Sask. and Alberta going to various rodeos. Denny was fortunate not to sustain any injuries during his active Rodeo life but his luck wasn't with him the day, due to lack of participants at an All-Native Women's Rodeo, he dressed up in pig-tails and a skirt and had the misfortune during his ride of breaking a leg.

One of the brighter moments of Denny's Rodeo life was when Dave Griffin, Butch Doerkson and Denny entered the Wildhorse Race Event at the 1976 Spruce Grove Rodeo. The 3 of them had worked together on this event before but this took place years earlier. The other teams didn't see much competition in this team so you can imagine their surprise when they were declared the Wildhorse Race Champs and each walked away with a beautiful trophy saddle after years of not competing.

During his single years, Denny made frequent trips to Kinuso to visit family and friends. During one of these trips home he was accompanied by Jack Moody, his cousin, and Pat Hunt of Kinuso. It was while making their way through the Swan Hills that the truck left the road and they were to find themselves lost. They spent their first night in the pick-up, stuck in the river. Upon waking it was decided they were stuck in the Inverness River and also decided they couldn't be far from Mile 9 on the Swan Hills Road. During the morning they separated to survey 3 different directions but only Denny and Jack met up again. After a time of waiting and having decided they were not on the Inverness and Pat still didn't show, they decided to see if they could track him down. They followed the direction Pat had taken, only to

decide after hours of walking that Pat must have quit following the River and taken a cut-line trail. One of the more exciting moments of their adventure was when they turned a corner and encountered a grizzly bear gnawing on something but neither Jack nor Denny took the time to find out what. After a nice run, Denny confidentially told Jack, "The bear would of got you first, as I can out run you." They made quick time and decided to make their way back to the truck and back track from there. After another night in the truck and a meal of a shared dried up cheese sandwich, they made their way out and were picked up by a Texaco employee. They got off at Ernest and Sylvia Sloan's (their aunt & uncle) home and she fondly remembers that these 2 men, who had not eaten in 3 days, only wanted her to prepare a meal of milk gravy and toast. Pat, they learned, had come out at Driftpile.

In 1969, just a few months after being lost, Denny moved into Edmonton and shared an apartment with friends also from Kinuso.

I was born September 4th, 1953 and adopted a couple of weeks later by Ken and Vivian Davis (nee: Sloan) and named Susan Anita.

My dad worked at the logging business in Kinuso and later joined the City Police in Edmonton where I spent all but the first year of my life. My dad passed away in 1975 and my mother now lives in Slave Lake.

Denny and I were married in 1970 in Edmonton and lived in West Edmonton. Denny worked for an Excavating Company, landscaping homes and digging basements with a loader. Denny spent one month on one of the most northerly islands in the Arctic but decided that wasn't for him though he thoroughly enjoyed the experience.

Our daughter, Kelly Denise, was born in Edmonton on November 11, 1970, at the General Hospital during the 21 gun salute across the North Sask. River.

In 1974 we moved our mobile home up the Valley and have lived here ever since though we were frequent visitors when we lived in the city. Upon moving up here, Denny purchased a gravel truck and went into business for himself. He has since purchased two Seismic Rigs as well.

I am at present employed by the R.C.M.P. at Faust and Kelly is attending Grade 3 at the Kinuso School.

Ernest Sloan

I have been asked about a few of my experiences since I came to Kinuso.

I came to Kinuso with my mother, Mrs. Martha Sloan in December of 1917. Needless to say it was quite a change for me coming from the wide open prairie of North Dakota.

That first winter my mother, my brother Charley and later in the winter of 1918, my other two brothers, Ray and Roy and I stayed with a bachelor by the name of Jack Ritchie in a little house that was 16 by 20 feet. It was a little crowded.

The next spring my brother Ray and I went to Saskatchewan. When we came back in the fall my other two brothers Roy and Charley had managed to build a log house 16 by 30 feet with an upstairs, in



Charlie Sloan's homestead — 1916.



Ernest, Sylvia and Mildred Sloan.

which we lived for the next several years, except for the winter of 1919 and 1920. During this time we lived in a tent on the lake shore where we had gone in the fall to put up and bale hay. As luck would have it hay was real scarce in southern Alberta and sold for as much as seventy dollars a ton loaded on the cars in Kinuso. We got thirty-five dollars a ton.

Things were rather quiet for the next few years. In the summer of 1927 I went to Camas, Washington where Sylvia had gone the year before to live with her mother and stepfather. Sylvia and I were married at Vancouver, Washington July 27, 1927 and came back to Kinuso that fall. Things went along fairly smooth until the hungry thirties. By that time Sylvia and I had four children to feed and clothe and things got a little rough at times. We never suffered any real hardship as we always had a large garden and there were lots of moose and deer and no restrictions on hunting. Money was practically non-existent. Wheat sold for about thirty-five cents a bushel and oats ten cents. Eggs were as low as seven and eight cents a dozen. Pigs sold for \$3.50 a hundred for good ones and some as low as \$1.50 a hundred. Roy and I shipped four three-year-old steers which weighed over 1200 lbs. each and received the big sum of 48.00 for the four. Things stayed pretty tough until the outbreak of World War Two, and then money seemed to come from some where and things got better fast.

In the spring of 1942 Sylvia and I and our four children moved to the former Joe Anderson farm so the children would be nearer to school. Two more children were born there, sons Frank and Dick.

In the fall of 1962 our home was burned to the ground and we lost everything, but with the help of wonderful friends and relatives a new house was soon built.

In July 1977 we celebrated our 50th wedding anniversary and it was pretty wonderful the way everyone responded.

Norman Gene Sloan

Gene Sloan, son of Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Sloan was born at home in the Valley. He received his schooling in the little school in the valley, went to work at an early age, first at harvesting and then seismic work. He went to work in Shaunavon, Saskatchewan a while and was married to Erna Myers. They have three children, Tara, Todd and Tracy. Gene had an interest in a body shop and garage in Gull Lake, Saskatchewan. He sold his share and went back to seismic work. Gene now lives near Cochrane, Alberta on an acreage and owns his own seismic trucks.

Frank Sloan

Frank is the third son of Ernest and Sylvia Sloan and was born February 18, 1941 at Enilda, Alberta. He received his schooling in Swan Valley and Kinuso. After leaving school Frank worked at seismic for awhile. He later went to Edmonton and joined the city police force, where he worked for thirteen years.

Frank married Donna Sarfinchon of Edmonton and has one daughter, Yvonne. After leaving the

police force Frank bought land in Swan Valley and is now working with a seismic crew.

Vivian

Vivian, the youngest daughter of Sylvia and Ernest Sloan, was born at home about 15 miles from Kinuso. Went to school by horseback or by cart approximately 5 miles. Ernest took the children to school sometimes in winter in a little caboose with a heater in it, drawn by horses.

Vivian married Ken Davis and moved to Edmonton; they had one adopted daughter, Susan, and two sons and a daughter of their own later.

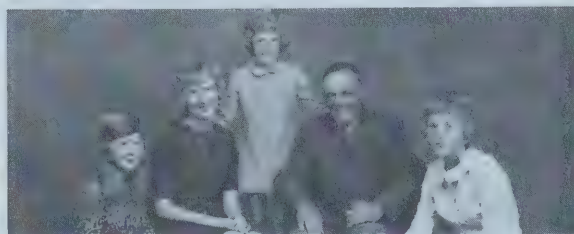
Ken passed away and Vivian moved to Slave Lake where she has worked in the hospital as a C.N.A. for the past 6½ years. Vivian's children are Susan, Ricky, Kenneth, and Sheila.

Ervin Claire Sloan

(Nov. 7/29)

Ervin Sloan, the second child, and oldest son of Sylvia and Ernest Sloan was born November 7, 1929 at home which was on S.W.¼, Sec. 33, Twp. 71, Rge 9. This land is approximately five miles east and nine miles south of Kinuso. A neighbor, Mrs. Dory Harrison and an aunt, Mrs. Liz Swanson, delivered him.

Ervin attended the old Valley School. His teachers were Mr. Reid, Mrs. Joe Green, Mrs. Carole Bannister and Mrs. Julia Hunt. When he was 19 years old he left home and went to work for a seismograph company. Starting in Peace River in 1949 and until 1959 he worked all through Alberta and Saskatchewan. In 1959 he bought his first drill and settled in Shaunavon, Saskatchewan, where he had a Water Well drilling business and did contract drilling in the Northwest Territories in the winter months.



Mona and Ervin Sloan and family: Cindy, Dawn and Shelly.

In 1955 Ervin married Mona Elaine McMaster in Shaunavon, Saskatchewan. They had three daughters:

Cindy Claire born February 3/57 in Oxbow, Saskatchewan. Cindy is married to Kenneth Jordan, they have one child, Heather Dawn, born September 1/76.
Shelly Gene born June 3/58 in Lucky Lake, Saskatchewan. Shelly is married to Darrell Cuthbert, they have two sons, Dino Ervin born September 30/75 and Greg Thomas born September 23/78.

Dawn Elaine born January 7/64 in Shaunavon, Saskatchewan.

Ervin moved back to Kinuso in 1969 with his wife

and family — they live on their farm in the “Valley” where Ervin raises cattle as well as continues his contract drilling business.

Glen and Rema Sloan and Family

Glen Howard Sloan was born July 9, 1921 in Kinuso Alberta. He was one of 11 children of Mr. and Mrs. Jesse Sloan. He grew up in Swan Valley and attended grade school there.

Rema Florence Tanghe was born in Kinuso, December 14, 1925. She was one of 7 children born to Emil and Louisa Tanghe. She attended grade school in Kinuso.



Glen Sloan family: Gail, Linda, Joan, Rema, Glen and Irma.

Rema and Glen met in 1941, and were married in High Prairie Anglican Church August 17, 1943, by Rev. Crawley. They have 4 daughters and to date have 8 grandchildren.

During the first few years of our marriage, Glen worked for his Dad on the farm during the summer months. In winter, he worked at other jobs, such as logging, operating a cat, and also did quite a bit of trapping.

Glen joined the Alberta Forest Service in May of 1956 and has been with them ever since. He started as Pat Foley's assistant here in Kinuso. Then we spent three years in Slave Lake and approximately three and a half years in Smith. He transferred back to Kinuso in 1965 as Chief Ranger, and still serves in that capacity.

Our oldest daughter Linda was born in High Prairie, July 23, 1944. She took her first few years of schooling in Kinuso. She took Junior High in Slave Lake and finished her grade twelve in Smith, Alberta. She married Leonard Lafrance on July 4, 1964. They have 2 children Leah and Maurice. They own and operate the “Big Way Store” in Smith.

Our second daughter Joan, was born in High Prairie, Sept. 11, 1946. She started school in Kinuso, took Junior High in Slave Lake, High School in Smith and Kinuso. She also went to business college in Edmonton. She met her husband Harold Evenson (then assistant Ranger), in Slave Lake where she was radio operator and clerk typist for the Slave Lake Forestry. Joan and Harold were married in the Kinuso United

Church May 17, 1969. With their two boys Brent and Colin, they now reside in Ft. Nelson, B.C., where Harold is Woods Foreman for Ft. Nelson Forest Products.

Gayle, our third daughter also born in High Prairie April 21, 1950, started school in Kinuso. She also went to school in Slave Lake and Smith, and back to Kinuso for High School. She also took a year of High School in Thorhild. She met David Laing when he came to Kinuso as assistant Ranger. They were married in Kinuso United Church March 31, 1973. They now reside in Slave Lake where Dave is still with the Forestry. They have 2 children, Todd and Kristen.

Our youngest daughter Irma, was born in High Prairie October 21, 1957. She started school in Smith, but continued her education in Kinuso. She married Ronald Hunt on October 27, 1973. They have 2 children, Jamey and Terri. They reside in Oil Spring, Ontario, where Ron is doing seismic work for an oil company.

We plan on retiring in Kinuso and have started a casual upholstery business to work at during our retirement. We also hope to do more travelling.

History of Lawrence Sloan

Lawrence was born October 24, 1929 on his father, Jesse's farm in Swan Valley.

Lawrence attended the Swan Valley school where some of his teachers were Mr. Reid, Mrs. Ann Green, and Julia Cargan now Julia Hunt.

Lawrence enjoyed life on the farm, and also hunting and trapping in the winter.



Ruth and Lawrence Sloan and family: Holly, Marshall, David, Danny and Karen.

In 1948 he married Ruth Cuthbert from High Prairie. They lived in North Star for three years working on Tom Denison's farm. In June 1951, in the Manning Hospital, their first child Daniel was born. Dan is now employed by the High Prairie School Division

teaching Physical Education in the Faust School.

In March of 1953, after spending the winter in the southern States and Mexico, Lawrence, Ruth and Danny moved to their homestead in Swan Valley. Karen was born in High Prairie in November 1953. Marshall was born in June of 1957. David Mark followed four years later in 1961 in the Athabasca Hospital. Their last child, Holly was born in 1963 in the High Prairie hospital.

Karen lives in Valleyview and Marshall in Kinuso. David is taking grade twelve at Camrose Lutheran College and Holly is taking grade ten in Kinuso. Lawrence is farming and ranching in Swan Valley and in July 1978 despersed his cattle herd due to a brucellosis outbreak. He replaced 100 cows and calves in the fall of the same year. Ruth and Lawrence now have three grandchildren, Trina and Brent Irla and Lorraine Sloan.

Leo Marvin Sloan

I, Leo Marvin Sloan the youngest son of Jesse and Nell was born in 1931 in the old log house on the farm, delivered by Dora Harrison.

I went to a one room school in Swan Valley taught by Mrs. Joe Green, Mrs. Carol Bannister and Miss Julia Cargan (now Mrs. Norman Hunt).

After finishing school I worked on my Dad's farm during the summer and in bush camps in the winter time, cutting pulpwood, plywood and lumber.

In 1950 I married Viney Tanghe youngest daughter of Emil and Louise Tanghe. Viney was born on the farm three miles east of Kinuso. She attended school at Kinuso and later moved to Swan Valley where we met and both finished school.

In 1952 our first son Anthony was born in the High Prairie Hospital. Anthony attended school in Slave Lake, Sunset House, Smith and High School in Athabasca. He later married Barbara Rowntree. They are living in Slave Lake, where Barbara teaches at the Charlie Schurter School and Anthony is a plant operator for Amoco Canada Limited.

In 1954 we moved to British Columbia, worked in sawmills at Prince George, Kamloops and Quesnel. Our second son Terrance was born in Quesnel in 1956. He attended school at Smith and high school in Slave Lake and Athabasca. He now lives in Slave Lake and works with Provincial Parks.

We returned to Alberta in late 1956 where I cut plywood for the winter.

In 1957 I joined the Alberta Forest Service. I took my basic training at Kananaskis, west of Calgary and the advanced training at Hinton Alberta.

In 1967 our third son Kevin was born in the Hinton hospital (Our Centennial Project). Kevin is at home taking his schooling at Smith.

Since joining the Forest Service in 1957 at Swan Valley Ranger Station I have been stationed at Slave lake, Sunset House, Wabasca and presently at Smith, where I have spent thirteen years.

MARIE SLOAN

written by herself, at 88 years

We have tried to write this story as she has written it herself and in her own words.

* * * * *

I was born in White Cloud, Michigan, U.S.A. Feb. 4th, 1890. Ray and I were married in 1921.

My parents, Mr. and Mrs. Burkholder and my brother, Delores, came here in 1920, from the southern part of Alberta (The Prairies). My dad logged for C. R. Field. Ray was the steam engineer for Field. That's where I met Ray.



Ray and Marie Sloan — 1949.

Mr. John Field and Russ Patterson also worked for C. R. Field. When they finished the timber, they and other men formed a company and got a permit to log, which was called the "Canyon Creek Saw Mill." They moved the logs to a site by the railroad track and set up a planer mill and saw mill — Ray operated the steam engine and I cooked for the company as their first cook. In our cook shack, a lot of squirrels could get in and out, and believe me they were sure busy trying to help themselves to the dried fruit, as the cupboard doors wouldn't shut tight. I had quite a time the first night; I set the table for breakfast and went to bed but I was awakened by a weasel trying to scratch my feet. The squirrels had messed the table all up that I had set the night before, so I had to start all over again. Ha Ha.

The only way to get out of Canyon Creek at that time was by train or by boat on Lesser Slave Lake, in the year 1922.

In the winter they cut logs and brought them down to the planer and started a planer mill. They planed in the summer and finished early in the fall, in time for us to go on the prairie for threshing. Ray operated an engine and I cooked for the cook car; it was a lot of work but I enjoyed it. Then we came back to work in the mill for the winter.

There was nothing at Canyon Creek for amusement. We did have a dance once in awhile and a box social sometimes, at which we ladies played tricks on the boys. We served lunch but it was always the same "cakes and sandwiches," etc. On Saturday nights, we got benches and put them in our living room, for the boys and ladies, and I played the piano.

We bought my piano from the Walkers in 1922 or 23. When they finished the permit to finish the logs at

Canyon Creek that they were doing, they got another permit to log at Spurfield. I believe this was in 1925. While they were moving camp, Ray and I went to Rumsey to visit the Clausens about working at the harvest. In the meantime, Ray took sick and was operated on for ruptured appendix. He spent eight weeks in Drumheller Hospital. When he was able to be moved, we took him up to Clausens, where we stayed until he was able to get around.

* * * * *

From the Clausens, we bought a steam engine, water wagon, and separator and moved them to Kinuso. In 1927 we got a permit to log. Then we moved to Swan Valley and set up a saw mill. As I said before, the steam engine etc. were all shipped from Rumsey. When the mill was all set up, the first crew was Mr. Jim Grono, who did the sawing, I took the lumber from the saw, and Ray ran the steam engine. We worked like this till we got a bigger crew, then I did the cooking and the book work. We shipped 3 carloads of lumber (rough) to pay for the equipment to Rumsey, Alberta.

* * * * *

On June, 13th, 1930, we had the first bad flood; it washed the Valley bridge out and took all our lumber down the River and into Lesser Slave Lake, (just as it was piled) and across the Lake to Martin River. Mr. McLeod and Mr. Savoie piled the lumber on shore. On one of the piles of lumber was one of my nice big roosters. When it got down to the bridge in Kinuso, Mr. McDonald (the butcher) grabbed the rooster and when he saw me, he said "Marie, I sure had a good chicken dinner." Ha. Ha.

* * * * *

Kinuso always celebrated the 1st of July, over on the Indian Reserve, with ball games, horse racing, riding wild horses, milking wild cows, and kids games. After the games of the day, the Indians had their "Tea Dancing" and we could hear the "Tom-Toms" far into the night. When we lived in Canyon Creek one time, Ray and his brother Roy and I came up to the Kinuso Sports on a hand car on the railroad. We had three nights of dancing in the U.F.A. Hall. Scotty McNiel played for the dances. We stayed at Mrs. Whitecotton's Hotel and enjoyed her lovely cooking; she served very good meals. Vera and Myrtle were young girls who I loved, they helped serve the meals.

* * * * *

I started my music lessons on the piano in Cincinnati, Ohi. U.S.A. when I was a small girl, for two years, the other years I studied in Indiana, U.S.A. I started to play the piano for the "Silent Movies" when Charlie Chaplin and Mary Pickford started their acting. I also played for movies in Jackson, Michigan, and Chicago, also in Edmonton, Alberta. I also played for a few dances in a few towns in Alberta and in Kinuso in the early years. Scotty McNiel and Roy Field both played the violin and Bill Boyd played the



Marie E. Sloan, age 87 years, still plays her piano in Kinuso.

coronet for dances in Kinuso. As the years went by Scotty and I played for most of the dances.

My brother was a violinist and taught me for a year. He was a wonderful musician; he organized ten bands and won many prizes. He passed away on the stage conducting his band. His son, my nephew, Dan Burkholder is now a Professor of Music in the University of Music in Arlington Texas.

* * * * *

Ray and I moved from Kinuso after we had a bad flood in 1930 and a fire in 1948. We moved to Faust, Alberta, and went into the taxi business . . . running two taxis. (We bought George Helmer's house and car). Ray had sugar diabetes and passed away in Providence Hospital in High Prairie in 1965. I lived alone there until 1977. I sold my place and moved here to Kinuso and lived in a Senior Citizen Duplex house which I like very much. I still do a lot of crocheting and play my "Antique Piano" which has "four" pedals; one an "Orchestra" pedal. My hands are crippled with arthritis but I still play and I'm 88 years young. I believe the Lord is helping me keep fit.

* * * * *

I belong to the "Nightcaps" from Salt Lake City, Utah. I call them over the phone and my voice comes over the radio; people talk from all over the world. The program or show comes over the radio at midnight, here in Canada and lasts until 5 A.M. You are allowed to talk only 5 minutes every two weeks, and only on Fridays 3 minutes, but not on Saturday night. Herb Jepko is the President.

They have a convention every year in June for four days. I went down to Salt Lake City convention in 1976 by plane; I played the piano for awhile and I got up and did a step dance when the orchestra played. Two thousand people were there for the banquets for three nights and the last night was a Masquarade dance.

We had quite a time coming home as a strike for planes was on here in Canada, so we had to come by bus from Great Falls, North Dakota. Mrs. Lois Buckley from Olds, Alberta, was my room mate and she was with me all the time.

* * * * *

Marie says, "In 1921 we moved to Faust with team and wagon. There was only a wagon road which wasn't much of a road, I can tell you. To get out of Kinuso, we went west of Kinuso through the bush and came out where Mr. H. W. Walker's and Fresens' buildings were where the main highway is now. My folks built a log building and had a restaurant in it for several years, then sold it and moved to the States."

* * * * *

Raymond George Sloan

Written Jan. 15, 1979

Raymond was born in Swan Valley July 4, 1916, in a sod-roof house on the river bank on N.E. 7-72-9-5. In about 1920 they moved into a new house farther away from the river bank. Raymond obtained his education in the Swan Valley school.



Elsie and Raymond Sloan.

His father at one time milked 25 cows so Raymond had lots of milking experience. One cow wouldn't let anyone milk her but Ray. He is also known for keeping the wood pile split up.

Raymond played ball with the Valley boys, the positions of shortstop and pitcher.

His brother Clarence born October 6, 1923 died in Peace River hospital with a stomach flu October 12, 1928.

Uncle Roy and Raymond had a trap line to Frost Hill where they had a cabin. They stayed in the cabin while out trapping. When he was not busy on the farm he worked in the Sloan Brother's mill as part time fireman. Sometimes Uncle Roy did the firing

while Raymond did another job. They used to have dances at the George corner where Raymond played the fiddle for them. His wife or brother Glen accompanied him on the Hawaiian guitar. He often talks of when as children, Glen and him used to play Tarzan in the trees and Glen fell out and knocked himself out, Raymond was carrying him to the house before he came to.

Swimming was a great sport with the river so close. When Ray and his brothers went for the cows one went each side of the bridge and up over the top. It was nothing for his mother to look out and see him at the top of the telephone pole. His first pair of skates were the kind that fastened to your shoes.

His brother Harold Arman born July 18, 1908 went north trapping with Bill Denison. He drowned in the Wabasca River while trying to cross in the boat. The current took him under, this was May 2, 1934. In 1937 Raymond went to Woking with his sister Bertha and Bob Moody, who were newly-weds. They came with a team of horses and flat rack from Kinuso to their new home. In the fall Raymond and Bob went working on threshing rigs since there wasn't much work then.

In February 1940 he spent a month in Grande Prairie training in the army.

On August 17, 1941 he married Elsie Blanche Cuthbert, born Nov. 28 1921, at Glenora, Man. They were married in the Nazarene Church in High Prairie. They were the first married in the church. The first couple of months after they were married they went north of Kinuso to work for Ben Brown in his mill. Elsie did the cooking while Raymond skidded logs with Ted and Tony, (their ponies).

In the fall Raymond and Elsie moved back on his father's farm. They lived in a 8 by 12 shack. Raymond went trapping in the winter. In the spring they moved into Hercel and Delta's house. Raymond went working for his uncle Ray in the spring. During this time three of their children were born. Margaret Janet in June of 1942, Dennis Raymond in July of 1944 and Donald Jesse in June of 1948. In August 1948 Denny broke his arm falling off a teeter-totter. His cousin Kenny was with him at the time. One winter Raymond helped his brother Pete haul pulpwood.

September 15, 1948 Elsie and Raymond moved to the Harrison place where he farmed in the summer and trapped in the winter. While there they bought their first car, a 1926 Dodge from George Moore. Ted Cuthbert was half owner. Three more children were born while they lived there, Beverly Ann on Aug. 22, 1951. Trudy Mae on Nov. 25 1954, and Mickey Thomas on March, 1957.

July 18, 1956 they went to Grande Prairie to visit Elsie's mother. They went around by Peace River and crossed on the ferry at Dunvegan. The last year on the farm Raymond cooked for the Forestry stand-by crew. Pat Foley was ranger then, Raymond got the job as assistant ranger on September 3, 1958, and they moved to Swan Station. They had to sell their cows and horses, Ted and Tony were used by many for hunting and other things. They lived in a log house until the forestry made the new one.

On Nov. 6, 1959 Margie married Ron Krinbill. They have three children Ricky, Lee, and Terry. They have a farm in the Valley and Ron also works in the Swan Hills. Margie is known for her crafts.

On June 3, 1960 Gary Dwain was born and he is now going to college in Calgary, Alberta.

In September of 1960 Raymond took six months Forestry training in Hinton, Alberta. The whole family went except for Denny who was working for Kiss Construction in the Swan Hills. Denny is married to Susan Davis and they were married June 26, 1970. They have one girl named Kelly Denise. Denny also has a boy Todd who lives at Fort McMurray and is twelve years old. Denny is fond of rodeos, bucking horses, and likes working with big machinery. Denny also has a seismic rig he has rented out.

Elsie and Raymond were at Swan Station when the flood hit in 1961. The water came out of the bush all over. They were surrounded with water on all sides, just a few feet from the house. They could still phone down in the valley in the afternoon but by evening the phone was dead. Some driftwood going down the river had caught the wires. They could hear Hercel and Lawrence's cows bawling away in the night. There were about 45 cattle drowned by the next day. By the next afternoon the water had gone down at the station.

Raymond and his family moved to Grande Prairie in July of 1962 to live in a old house by the creek. By fall they had moved into a brand new duplex on ninety-second avenue. Carla Nell was born there on July 12, 1964. Donald then went to work on the oil rigs and he married Linda Smith at Parkbeg Saskatchewan. They now have four children. Troy, Todd, Regan, and Jason. Donald worked with Pattersons Elevators for a few years and is now administrator and insurance salesman at Tugaske Saskatchewan.

In May of 1966 Raymond was transferred to Valleyview. The rent was cheap, \$37.00 a month including utilities. They had a place for a garden and they always got a moose in the fall. Beverly stayed in Grande Prairie working at Swan Industries.

On April 30, 1969 Raymond's mother Nellie passed away at Kinuso.

September 16, 1969 Elsie and Raymond moved to Spirit River.

After Trudy graduated she took a hairdressing course at Beverly Salon in Edmonton. Trudy has now married Hank Fischer and they have two girls, Tricia and Raemi. They live in Loydminster, Alberta. Hank is in the garage business there.

Raymond's oldest sister, Cecil Denison passed away October 15, 1973 in Mexico.

Mickey after graduating, took a welding course. He married Gail Ruckavina and they live in Rycroft Alberta while Mickey works at Fox Creek.

On August 19, 1975 Jesse Lee Sloan, Raymond's father passed away in High Prairie in Dr. Woods Nursing Home.

Carla is the only one at home and she is in grade nine at secondary school. Elsie and Raymond have bought the house they are presently living in Spirit so they plan on staying after Raymond retires.

Richard Grant Sloan

Richard, (Dick) youngest son of Ernest and Sylvia was born in High Prairie on December 6th, 1943. At the age of five Dick took his first big trip to Arlington, Washington with his mother to visit some relatives. Dick attended school in the valley school in 1949-50, the next year they closed the valley school and Dick attended the Kinuso school.

When Dick was about nine, he and five other Sloan boys, Frank, Alvin, Earl, Kenny and Denny formed a little club called "The Six Scouts". They had their meetings and even kept minutes. They built a little log cabin on the old Frost place, this was their club house, this cabin is still standing, the boys even spent part of their Christmas holidays there.



Six Scouts' Cabin.

Dick graduated from grade 12 in 1961, and then worked at various jobs around the community, he worked with the Forestry and also as a pipefitter in Swan Hills.

Dick and Ken Sloan took a trip to B.C. where they tried to make their fortune buying and selling apples, this proved to be a very unprofitable adventure but they enjoyed travelling the country.

Dick then worked for Ervin in Saskatchewan as a seismic driller, where he met and married Cynthia Porter in Shaunavon, Sask. on May 3, 1969. We now have four children, Amy born June 3rd 1968, Kevin born July 7th, 1970, Tanya born April 27th, 1976 and Julia born Nov. 8th, 1978.

We spent the first years of our marriage living in a small trailer next to Dick's parents.

We started building and moved into our new house located on the NE-12-72-10 in 1973 and are still working on it.

Dick was lucky enough to obtain one of the last ten dollar homesteads in this area, which is located on the east side of the Swan River.

Dick does farm and has a few cows but still works out in the winter as a seismic driller.

Dick also played fastball with the Swan Valley Sod-busters for a number of years and was one of the original players.

Stanley Sloan

My father Thomas Sloan was born in 1887 in the

State of Wisconsin and my mother was born in 1889, in the state of Wisconsin also. In about the year 1898 they moved with their parents to North Dakota, and in 1908 they were married.

In 1919 they moved from North Dakota to Kinuso. I have three brothers and four sisters. Orville, Wayne, and Allan Sloan. Virginia Wileman, Dorothy Sloan, Esther King and Beatrice Adair.

I stayed at home and worked with my parents until 1940. In August 1940 I went to Sexsmith for the harvest. I've seen oats that yielded 100 bushels per acre, and wheat that yielded 43 bushels to the acre.

The summer of 1941 I worked at Sexsmith for a farmer and in 1942 I worked for a farmer at High River.

The summer of 1955, Red Cuthbert and I went to Kitchener, Ontario for the harvest. We had a look at Niagara Falls and then went to see the bright lights of New York City.



Stanley Sloan with a bear he killed at Rognes camp.

The spring of 1956 I was watchman for Gilbert Rognes lumber camp from April 11th to the 20th of May. This camp was 18 miles up the Swan River from the settlement. I killed 12 bears right from the kitchen doorway. All 12 were black bear and some big ones, was I ever scared all the time I was there.

The summer of 1958 I went to Great Slave Lake to pack fish for W. R. Menzies.

The summer of 1957 found me in Kelowna, B.C. picking apples, a good apple picker can pick 100 boxes of apples in 7 hours, but at best I only picked about 60 boxes in ten hours.

From 1959 to 1961 I worked for the same farmer at Sexsmith. I worked a few summers for the Forestry, on a standby crew and on the bridge crews on the Saulteaux and Otauwaw rivers.

I helped paint the bridge on the Swan River in 1967 and some others up west, then in December that year I went to Chisholm to work in a sawmill.

I returned to Kinuso and went to visit Lilian and

George Gould in Triangle, Alberta. There I helped haul locks from Bissells mill at Enilda to the Gould mill. These blocks are sawed into wedges which are used in the mines at Grande Cache. I have spent the past three winters there while the Goulds wintered in southern Texas.

I am semi-retired now and summers find me back in the Valley, where my favourite past time is picking berries in their season and I can tramp the same trails I did so many years ago.

Virgle Peter Sloan

by Jessie Sloan

Virgle Peter Sloan (9th child of Jesse Sloan) born September 15, 1925 in Kinuso, went to the Swan Valley School, his occupation—truck driver. Married Jessie Edith Tanghe March 2, 1945. I was also born in Kinuso April 30, 1928 and attended both the Kinuso and Swan Valley schools.

We have five children and six grandchildren, who are as follows: Julianne born in High Prairie on August 28, 1945. She married Robert Selter and now lives in Kelowna, B.C. Robert is a maintenance man for all lumber mills in that area. They have two children — Travis born July 20, 1965 and Ferra Lee born on September 18, 1969.

Peter Lee Sloan was born on June 25, 1948 in High Prairie. He is a partsman at Acklands in Slave Lake, Alberta. He married Arvilla Parsons September 8, 1978.

Our third child, Harold George was born August 16, 1949 in High Prairie. He is a lumber grader in Port Moody, B.C. He married Dianne Barre and they have two sons: Michael, born on January 12, 1976 and David born May 15, 1978.

Debra Anne Sloan was born on March 20, 1954 in the High Prairie Hospital. She married Dan Baril of Haney, B.C. Dan is a shipper for National Windows. They have two daughters — Danielle Elizabeth born December 30, 1976 and Nicole Leanne on November 20, 1978.

Our last child Tammy Denise was also born in High Prairie on June 22, 1959. Tammy is a nurses' aide at a private hospital in Haney.

Wayne Sloan

As I remember, Feb. 1979

by Wayne Sloan

My grandparents came into the Swan Valley in about 1912-13.

His name was Thomas Jefferson Sloan and her name was Clara Rose Sloan. They were known as Uncle Tom and Aunt Clara, and they were Uncle and Aunt to, Jesse Sloan, Charlie, Ray, Liz, Roy and Ernest Sloan.

They homesteaded about 11 or 12 miles south of Kinuso, they didn't really want to farm much, but wanted to hunt and pick berries.

They had shipped by train to Edmonton then drove overland by St. Albert, Barrhead, Homes Crossing and Deer Mountain.

Grandad drove a team and wagon and Grandma drove a team on a democrat, they brought some cattle, horses, pigs and chickens. Sam and Wilbur Sloan were out-riders on this trip, who were then young men.

Grandad was born 1865 — died 1933.

Grandma was born in 1867 — died 1954.

Their family were one girl Grace, and four boys, Thomas, Oley, Sam, and Wilbur, all were born in the State of Wisconsin.



Tom and Nell Sloan family: Wayne, Esther, Virginia, Dorothy, Stanley, Allan, Orville, Beatrice.



Nell Sloan.

Thomas Henery Sloan, my father and son of Thomas Jefferson was born in Wazeka, Wisconsin and came to North Dakota in the early 1900 as a young man. There he married Nellie Wayne. They shipped to Kinuso as immigrants by train in the spring of 1918, at the time they had six children.

The flu was bad then after the 1918 war. We all came down with the flu at my grandparents up the valley, what a time, six kids with the flu, no doctor or nurse, and the only medicine was brandy; (a real ball for sure).

Thomas Henery Sloan was born in 1888 and died in 1972.

Nellie E. Sloan was born in 1890 and died in 1962.

Their children are Orville, Virginia, Dorothy, Wayne, Esther, Beatrice, Stanley and Allen, all living at present, and are from age 71 to 55.



Ella, Wayne, Jayne and son Barry, musicians for many house parties.

I, Wayne Sloan married Ella Hunt in November 1945. Our kids are eight on the last count Jane, Bert, Marlene, Milton, Judi, Penny, Joanne, and Debbi. All living at present and they are from ages 32 to 9 years.

I tried to get in the Army in 1944, I was refused, however I got into the battle, I got married.



Tom and Clara Sloan beside the home they built.

Grin and Bear It.

As a nut of a kid at my grandparents log farm home, (with the logs standing on end), I often heard this remark "The Big Field," as I grew up I learned the big field consisted of 12 acres.

While sleeping upstairs, early one morning, I

heard Grandfather burst out laughing at the best. He had put on a real play of being sick until Grandma got the fires going and then he was suddenly very well; Grandma didn't share in the laugh.

Eunice Smith, 1916

"Smith", as most of us referred to the one and only "colored man", that settled in this Swan River area in 1916. As far as we know, he came from the far "South", U.S.A.

It is thought that he came to work for Mr. C. R. Field, who was running a sawmill, north of town on Joe Labby's farm.

It was a common occurrence, to see him pull into town, on a huge load of lumber, behind a 4 up (4 horses) cracking his whip, and hollering at the horses. There has never been another man in the Valley that could crack a whip like Smith.

When the "flu" broke out in 1918, he was boarding at the Restaurant, so he spent day and night ministering to the sick people making poultices of onions and turpentine, putting them on their chests, which seemed about all you could do. He chewed asafetide, a kind of gum like a spruce gum, and always said it kept him from getting the flu.

He worked around the district doing various jobs, one of which was touring farms on his Roan horse, diagnosing animal sicknesses, and treating them with what remedies he knew. He was also one of the best men at roaching horses manes and tails, also dehorning and branding cattle.

He was a very outstanding figure, around the rodeos at our 1st of July celebrations. He is greatly remembered for riding around the ring announcing events for the day, and also for the next day, through a huge horn. It never mattered whether it rained or not, whether it blew, or the sun shone, he was always there. In the middle of a downpour, he would put on his raincoat and announce, "Keep you'se seats folks, it ain't a gonna rain."

This was part of the "Sports" we all looked forward to.

There is a saying which many people remember him by: "Gosh! you wouldn't happen to have a smoke on you? I'se just plum right out."

Mr. and Mrs. Jim Smith

Jim Smith was born in Waitville, Saskatchewan in 1933. His family were farmers and Jim grew up on a farm and attended school there. When he was sixteen years old, the family moved to High Prairie, Alberta. Here Jim went to work in the pulpwood industry and worked at this for many years.

Vina Smith was born at Hart River, Alberta, in 1936. They lived too far away from a school so Vina took correspondence lessons for the first two or three years until the family moved to High Prairie. She was able to finish her schooling at the E.W. Pratt School. After leaving school, she worked at the High Prairie Hospital until she met and married Jim. Surprisingly, they met in church. Vina recalled with a smile how Jim, trying to impress her father, drove her father's

Sunday School van, picking up youngsters and taking them to and from Sunday School while he was courting her.

Vina and Jim continued to live in High Prairie after their marriage for about fourteen or fifteen years. During this time Jim worked in areas around Kinuso with the pulpwood, so eventually they moved to Kinuso.

They have seven children, three of whom are married and have children, so Jim and Vina have four grandchildren.

The four oldest children, Pat, Gary, Cheryl and Cleone received their first few years of schooling at High Prairie. When the family moved to Kinuso they all attended the Kinuso School.

Last year Jim and Vina moved to Canyon Creek, where they have a small acreage. Gary and his wife and family also live in Canyon Creek. Also Cheryl and her husband and family. Cleone and her husband live in Faust. Gregory works in Slave Lake. Joey and Jimmy attend school in Slave Lake. Pat also is employed in Slave Lake. They are a close knit family and with the exception of Vina all enjoy good health.

Frank Sowan

As told by Frank Sowan

Frank was born to Samuel and Theresa (Giroux) on September 10, 1974 in Kinuso. He was the youngest boy of 12 children. Frank attended school in Kinuso and Jousard leaving school when he was 14 years old.

Frank started raising horses when he was 15. He did some fishing and also hauled fish to Faust for



Frank Sowan.

other fishermen. Using his own sleigh and team he would make about \$1.00 a day. He later hauled freight for Indian Affairs to such places as Sturgeon and Whitefish Lake.

Doing some trapping he sold his furs to Harry Walker. Sometimes getting as many as 50 squirrels in one day he would sell them for 3 cents to 5 cents per squirrel. During the spring he worked for McRae's Logging.

On January 21, 1941 Frank married Rachael Nome, daughter of Edward and Harriet Nome. Frank started farming his father's farm and began building up his herd of livestock. Making hay to sell he also sold wood and hauled grain by horse and sleigh to Wabasca to sell. His wife helped on the farm, milking the cows and shipping cream.

In 1944 he bought his first tractor and plowed fields for other farmers. Later he bought a truck and hauled rations, lumber and fish to Whitefish Lake and Sturgeon Lake. He also took people to the Lac St. Anne Pilgrimage and the Jousard Pilgrimage.

Selling some cattle in 1949 Frank bought material to build a new house.

In 1952 his wife, Racheal, passed away leaving Frank with six children to raise.



Frank Sowan family: Racheal holding Sheldon. Middle: Dennis, Suzie. Front: Clarence, Louis.

Frank was a councillor for the Swan River Band for 17 years and in 1969 went to Ottawa for a meeting with Prime Minister Trudeau. His son, Clarence, has been a councillor for eight years.

Frank learned to play the fiddle when he was eight and in his younger years often played for dances in the area.

Frank's children — Dennis, Clarence, Louis and Sheldon — all live in Kinuso.

Dennis and Brenda have two children — Candy and Leslie.

Clarence and Ruby have two children — Preston and Claude.

Sheldon and Rose have two children — Julie and Christie.

Suzie lives in Edmonton and has eight children — Arlene, Shirley, Beverley, Sharon, Karen, Kenny, Kelly and Randy.

Wayne and Rose live in Slave Lake and have one child.



Frank Sowan's 1944 tractor.

Today Frank is still farming with the help of his son Dennis.

Frances Carol (Adams) Specht

I am the youngest in a family of five children born to James and Lela Adams. My dad died when I was only four years old. The farm was our home till I was about five years old then we moved to town for a year or so, then back to the farm.

Life on the farm kept everyone busy and out of mischief. My brother Ross and I had to bring in fire wood for the kitchen stove, keep the chickens supplied with clean straw, gather eggs, haul water in pails from the river plus many other small jobs.

Weeding the garden and picking berries was always a family work project. It was long and tiring, but occasionally we would sneak down to the river for a swim. Mom always found us somehow and it was back to work. Even though the work was hard we had fun. There was often company and picnics in the summer, and card parties and Christmas exchange with the Quinn family in the winter. They were our nearest neighbors and lived one mile from us, across the river. The Ed Dow family would come out from town to join in with us and all would head for the hills on a Sunday for play, food and fun. Everyone had laughs galore.

At the age of nine we moved back to town. By this time my sister, Florence, had married Leo Davignon and Mom had remarried. He was a school teacher by the name of Owen Brown. When I was ten, two friends and I were on our way to a little picnic as it was one of the first warm days of spring. While we were

walking along, we looked over at the school and saw smoke rolling out from under the eaves. As we watched, wondering what to do, the fire siren rang and everyone started running all over the place. My friends and I went to our separate homes, picnic forgotten in the face of something much more exciting. As most children do, we also hoped once in a while that the school would burn down. Our wish was coming true, it elated us but frightened us at the same time.

I would never have believed anything could be so hot. My home was about 400 feet from the school and the rubberoid siding on the house was melting from the terrific heat. A breeze was blowing the sparks in the direction of our house and Bill Card's next door, all were worried that they would catch fire too. Luckily we had a good well and running water, we hooked up the hoses and kept steadily spraying water on the houses. I watched the fire burn all night from my upstairs bedroom window.

After that, school was held in the curling rink, churches, Legion Hall, everywhere that was large enough to hold at least one class. I never got into the new school until I was in grade seven. When we got our new school we received a gymnasium also, which we had never had before. We were all so proud of our new school and everyone loved to go to gym.

Around this time Mr. Henry Lysne moved away and Kinuso lost the best Principal this school's ever had. During that rebuilding period, it was the teachers that had the tough time. One teacher in particular, Mrs. Edna Kizelchuk who was quite elderly, must have suffered a bit of inconvenience through the reshuffling. Even so, she was always cheerful and more than willing to give extra help to anyone that asked. She taught part of Grade Four and all of Five one term and the next term she had part of Grade Five and all of Grade Six. A total of 44 students and she managed them all alone.

After I turned thirteen, I used to clean houses for women around town, do babysitting and wash dishes at the new hotel. That hotel was really beautiful, the most modern one north of Edmonton at that time. I can remember there were a lot of complaints about there being a bar in town though. Then came the first flood since 1934 or 35. Water was running down main street and the Police had to come to Kinuso in boats. The water was so deep at the railway end of town that Andy Dumas could swim part of the way to the hotel. Along about this time the oil boom started up in the hills. Texaco and Shell Oil were eventually to set up Batteries in Deer Mountain and House Mountain respectively. Before this though there were the rigs with the pushes, drillers and all the rough necks. The town really came alive on the weekends. I went to Pittsburgh for my Grade 11 and stayed for one semester in '62. I came back home and worked in the hotel cafe as waitress. During this time I started dating Gunter Specht from Berlin, Germany. He came to Canada in 1956, and to Kinuso in the late summer of '57. He worked as front end man for Owen Jordan. Gunter and I went to Berlin in January of '64 and were married there. We lived there for almost one and a half

years. Tony, our first son was born there. In March '64, I received a telegram saying that my oldest brother Bobby, had been killed in a car accident. In April '64, I received another one saying that Mom's house had burned down. I felt especially bad that I was not home to comfort Mom in this time of trouble and I was becoming extremely homesick.

It was quite an experience living in a foreign country and not knowing one word of their language, but with no one to talk English to, it didn't take long to learn German. I loved Berlin and the people were very friendly. I was only sorry that I couldn't communicate better with the people and see more of the country. I would love to have seen East Berlin, but I was too nervous about going over there. People were still not at ease over the Berlin Wall.

Gunter, myself and baby Tony, returned by boat to Canada in May of '65. When we arrived in Edmonton, we were met by Mom, Ross, Florence and Leo at the Royal George Hotel. They told us that Lloyd, another brother, had been in an accident and was in bad shape, especially his eyes. We stayed in Edmonton for three days and went to see him. I wouldn't have recognized him if Mom hadn't been with me. He was swollen out of shape and his entire face and neck was black. Gunter returned to work at Jordan's and we bought the late Mrs. Katherine Macdonald's house and three lots.

In February of '67, Gunter went to work in Deer Mountain for Texaco as a Battery Operator. In September of '67 we had another son, Claude, born to us. In '70 we moved to Deer Mountain and lived there for four years, and in '74 we moved back to Kinuso. We bought Harry Yarosh's General Store in May of '75 and named it Carol's Confectionery. Gunter, in the meantime, was working from '74 to '76 up in Zama, north of High Level. He then transferred back to Deer Mountain where he still is to date.

In July of '77 we started building our new home and in December '78 we moved in. There remained a lot to do yet but it would get done eventually and we sure enjoyed living in a new home.

Of all the places I've lived or Gunter has lived we like Kinuso the best. Not only for the variety in work but in play also. With our beautiful lake in the summer, hills in the fall and the new curling rink in the winter, I think we and our children in this community should look forward to a full recreational life for many years to come.

Almost everyone in a small town has contributed to the growth of that town in some way. I don't think it matters whether it is money, labor, materials, ideas or just support of local functions that one contributes, it all means growth to that community. In a small town growth is somewhat more noticeable than in a city and a person can feel and see that he or she is part of this growth. I, for one, am proud to be living in this town and being part of this community and its history.

The Stanley Story

Ervin Stanley came to the Bently district of Alberta, with his brother Clarence from the United States

shortly after 1900, where he met and married Eva Austin. She had also emigrated from the States. They lived in Lacombe, Alberta, where Mr. Stanley was converted to the Seventh Day Adventist faith and became a lay worker for the church.

They travelled about for a time then in 1918 the Stanleys and their three children, Austin, Iden and Edith moved to the Swan Valley where the church had established a mission school. The school was used for classes during the week and on Saturdays Mr. Stanley held church services.



Adventist School, Mrs. Robinson, teacher.

When a flu epidemic broke out after the war, Mr. and Mrs. Stanley would take turns staying with their children and going out to nurse the sick.

While they lived in the Swan Valley area, another son Joseph was born. They had made only a few converts in the Swan Valley and the church was not able to support them in this venture so in the spring of 1922 the Stanleys moved to Faust.

The fishing industry was in full swing then and Mr. Stanley got work making fish boxes for packing fish in that was to be shipped.

The family grew potatoes on the eleven acres they had rented and shipped them by the boxcar load. Making hay was also profitable and it was shipped by the car load too. The older children sold milk and eggs door to door to supplement the family income.

Three more children were born to the Stanleys after they moved to Faust. They were Ervin, Bertha, and Evangeline (Evie).

Eventually Mr. Stanley bought forty acres of land from Charlie Berkhart. By this time the highway was being built through Faust and it went right by the Stanley's door. In 1927 and 1928 they built some log cabins on their land. These cabins were rented out by the day, week or month and were called Aspen Glen.

Mr. Stanley died in White Rock, British Columbia in 1943 and Mrs. Stanley continued to live at Faust for quite awhile then moved to High Prairie, McLennan, Camrose and died in Edmonton in 1974.

The Stanley children eventually left Faust also. Austin lived there until 1955 then moved to Nakusp, British Columbia with his family. Then to Summerland where he died in 1967.

Clarence Iden left Faust when he grew up, and lived for many years in Lanning Mills, British Columbia with his family and died there in 1970.

Edith lived at Faust and moved to High Prairie, with her family. She moved to Wainwright for a few years and is now living near Edmonton.

Joseph lived at Faust for a time then moved to McLennan where he worked on the railroad. He married while in McLennan then moved to High Prairie and now lives with his family in Nakusp, British Columbia.

Ervin now lives in Winnipeg, Manitoba with his wife and family.

Bertha and family lived in southern Alberta for many years but are now living in British Columbia.

Evangeline and family lived in Camrose for awhile and are now living in Edmonton.

Don and Kaye Stasow and Family

Kaye Hrynshyn was born May 24, 1934 in Kinuso. She married Donald Stasow of Reno in 1957.

After they were married, Don and Kaye lived in Fort Nelson and Girouxville for a while. Then Don purchased a water truck and thus began their travels in various places as Don hauled water for the oil rigs. They lived in Eaglesham and from there went onto Whitecourt, Virginia Hills, Judy Creek, and Valleyview.

Don and Kaye returned to Kinuso in 1964. By then they had one son Ricky, born on April 29, 1960. Soon after they arrived they had another son, Allan, born June 6, 1964.



Don and Kay Stasow's farm.



Fly-In-Breakfast on Stasow's farm — August 27th, 1972.

They lived in town for awhile then moved to the family farm that Hrynshyn's had. Don had a private

pilot's licence and owned a couple of planes. He was always too happy to give someone a ride. Don tried to get an airstrip going on the farm, if not completely succeeding in this, he was very successful in having three air shows in 1973-74-75.



Don Stasow's Plane CF-IN Q 130-Kinuso.

Don served on the Kinuso Council, was a member of the Spruce Point Park Assn. and was successful in bringing in the first F.C.A. Rodeo to Kinuso.

Don passed away suddenly on March 9, 1976.

Kaye, Ricky and Allan now live in the town of Kinuso. Ricky has completed his schooling here and Allan still attends school. Kaye is employed at Alberta Transportation in Kinuso.

The Stefaniak Family



Martin and Anna Stefaniuk on steps of old Roman Catholic Church.

The Stefaniak family consisted of Martin, Anna, and two sons, Stanley and Frank. In 1929, they left Edmonton in a covered wagon and travelled to Triangle, which took two months to get there. We settled on a homestead three miles south of Triangle, but only stayed there a couple of years. Here Helen was born, 1931. Since there were no schools available, we moved on towards Edmonton. Having trouble with the wagon, they stopped in Kinuso to make repairs. That is when we met Mr. Anton Kirtio Sr., who told us about a homestead next to his place. We applied for it and moved in with Mr. and Mrs. Kirtio, until we built a house. It was only a log house with mud and straw mixture to fill the cracks, and also no floor. The roof was sod. In a couple of years, another house was built, much larger with two rooms, a wood floor, and tar paper on the roof. The old one was used as a barn.

Stanley and Frank started school as soon as possible; that was in 1932. They walked 2½ miles each way. There were no roads to speak of, only wagon trails. Sophie was born in 1934, and Walter in 1936. Thanks to all our neighbors, all went well. Helen started school in 1938, Sophie in 1940, and Walter in 1942.



The Stefaniuk family on homestead in Kinuso.

Martin worked out a great deal, so most of the farm work was done by Anna. Stanley joined the army in 1940, followed by Frank in 1943. That is when the farm was sold and we moved to Edmonton.

Since then Martin, Anna, and Stanley are deceased. Frank and Helen live in Edmonton. Sophie

lives in Ontario, and Walter in Florida, with the U.S.A. Air Force.

Bill Stevenson

Son of George and Molly Stevenson and grandson of Edgar and Nettie Stevenson. He was born in High Prairie, Alberta (which is where our hospital is situated) while his parents were living in Kinuso. After he was about 2 years old, he and his family moved to Jousard, then moved to Edmonton where he grew up and where he took part in both football and basketball.



Bill Stevenson #62 of Edmonton Eskimo's.



Mr. and Mrs. Bill Stevenson. Bill is Edgar Stevenson's grandson, and member of Edmonton Eskimo's Football team.

He spent some time in the U.S.A. playing football then came back to Edmonton to play with the Edmonton Eskimos. He and his wife are living in Edmonton. He married Carol Ann Newsum. They have a daughter Steffanie born June 3, 1977 and a son Tanner William born November 15, 1978.

Quotes from Edmonton Sun, June 12, 1978.

"Edmonton Eskimos Bill Stevenson, a 270 pounder who played a defensive tackle spot last season, is playing on both sides of the ball now, as their team prepares for their first exhibition game in Calgary tomorrow night. Stevenson will probably see action at an offensive tackle spot.

Another quote-Not that Edmonton Eskimos are banking on Bill Stevenson to earn his line-man's wage by playing 60 minutes. He's more like their 1978 insurance policy as a 2-way lineman.

Want to hear more? — "In the event of multiple injuries," says Campbell, "this simply is not enough. Thus we're asking Bill Stevenson to learn offence, as Estay did last year."

There is so much more that can be told of Bill.

Dave Stevenson

Dave has the greatest talent in his field of any local boys in this community. He had done all the sketches for this "History Book," and finally for the cover.

He was born in High Prairie, July 15, 1952 to Ken and Nonnie Stevenson. He was very interested in sports, playing on a basketball team under Johnny Bright, the famous Eskimo football player for Edmonton.

He never missed a summer holiday in Kinuso, coming to stay with his grandfather, Howard Posey, who was a pioneer of this country coming early in 1909.

His grandfather, Edgar Stevenson was also a pioneer of the country coming in 1917.

We are very proud to have the grandson of two great pioneers do such wonderful art work on this "Book."

The Edgar Stevenson Family

submitted by Mabel (daughter) and Nettie

"GRANDPA STEVENSON," father of Edgar Stevenson, first came to Swan River (Kinuso) in 1917, and homesteaded the N.E. 1/4-5-74-9-W5th, adjoining Jack Killeen Sr.

In his later years, Edgar (his son) built a small house right beside his own, in the town of Kinuso.

Grandpa with Edgar's help carried on a small business of making and selling moose-hide mukluks, mocassions and fur mittens and gloves.

In this little house he died, doing the work he loved.

Edgar and Annette (Nettie)

Edgar (Stevenson) was born in Meaford, Ontario. He came to Alberta in 1904, taking up a homestead in Crossfield. In 1908 he married Annette (Nettie) Erickson, in Calgary, Alberta. They lived in various

parts of Alberta, before settling in Swan River in 1917.

Annette (Nettie) was born in Minneapolis, Minn. and came to Calgary in 1904. From their marriage, eleven children were born: John, Fred, Mable, Walter, May, Florence, Ted (died about 12 years old) Melvin, (Bub), Eva, Ken and George.



Four Generations: David Stevenson (Grandpa), Edgar Stevenson, Mable Grono, and Gordon Grono.

After the railroad service improved (in Swan River) and our settlement grew, it became necessary to have a drayman in town. So, Edgar, having a need to get his children to school decided to move from his homestead to town, a distance of some 5 or 6 miles. He, with his older sons, started a "dray business", hauling and delivering freight from the Swan River Station to the stores and homes in the town limits.

Edgar also kept a fast team of horses, driving nurses, policemen, cattle buyers, etc. around the area. In those days there were cattle buyers who went to the farmers and bought their cattle, then shipped them to various outside markets. There was a cattle train that picked up cars of livestock every Sunday (once a week).

When #2 Highway was built around 1926, and it became possible for trucks, and they began operating, bringing in the bulk of the freight, the dray business slackened off, but Edgar and his sons remained in Kinuso, doing various jobs around the district, until

they sold their place and dray business to Stan McLaughlin.

They then moved to Edmonton in 1953 and made a new home, where some of their children married and settled down. Some, have since moved to other places especially B.C. Some of these children have their history printed in this book.

Edgar and Nettie celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary in Edmonton in 1958, with all their children attending.

Edgar passed away in Edmonton at the age of 78 years and Nettie also passed away in Edmonton at the age of 73 years.

Edgar and Nettie's children:

John — Came to Kinuso (Swan River) in 1917 with his family. He grew up in the town getting all his schooling here. Served some time in World War II. Married Kathy, came back to farm in Kinuso. Later moved to make his home in Edmonton. They had five children — Bob, Darlene, Shirley, Ian, and Kerry.

Fred — Was born in Sask. Came to Swan River 1917. In 1933 he went to Fort Fitzgerald, N.W.T. and worked as a trapper until 1942. He then returned to Kinuso. Worked at trapping and for the D.P.W. Moved to Edmonton where he died at 55 years of age. He had four children with first wife Therese-Betty, Millie, Freda, Fred. Also six children by second marriage to Marg-Freda, Bonnie, Vern. Miles, Sadie, Libby.

Mable — Also came with family in 1917. Grew up and took her schooling in Kinuso. Married Cecil Grono, who was a carpenter. Moved to Edmonton, later to Parksville, B.C. where Cecil passed away. Remarried and her name is now Mable LeLand. She has 2 children, Gordon and Leona.

Walter — Grew up and took schooling in Kinuso. When a young lad helped his father in dray business. Married Edith Churchill, a local girl, later moved to Edmonton, now lives in Kelowna where he is retired. He and Edith had 7 children; Doug, Donnie, Danny, Joan, Harvie, Blain, Gilbert.

May — Also grew up and went to school in Kinuso. She married Henry Brulotte. They lived in Kinuso, then made their home in Edmonton. She died at an early age. They had three children-Helen, Joyce, and Dennis.

Florence — Is third of four Stevenson girls. All her young life was spent in Kinuso. She, with her sisters, was very interested in sports. She married Tom Grono. Later moved to Jasper Place then out to Parksville. Tom is one of the finest carpenters. A few years ago they came to Peachland where they built a beautiful home on Blue Water sub-division. They have 6 children — Melvin, June, Bill, Dick, Wanda and Wayne.

Melvin — (Bub) was raised in Kinuso helping with dray business. Married Beatrice Eckardt and moved to Rimbey. They had two children, Annette, and Grace.

Eva — youngest of the girls. Married Joe Wallsmith and now make their home in Edmonton. They have 4 children-Richard, Freddie, Sharon and Gail.

Ken — Born and raised in Kinuso. Was a great base-ball player for many years. Married Nonny Posey and they have two children, Dave and Linda. Dave is an artist and does a lot of wonderful drawings for our community especially our local history book.

George — youngest of Stevenson family, married Molly Caudron from Jousard. Lived a few years in Kinuso, then moved to Jasper Place in Edmonton. They had 5 children; Bill, Raymond, James, Bruce and Pat. Bill plays with the Edmonton Eskimos football team.

Edith and Walter Stevenson

On May 24th, 1930, the Churchill family left Kitscoty, Alberta by covered wagons; we took extra horses, also cattle.

We landed in Kinuso sometime in July that year. It was during the time of the 1930 flood, as we were held up at Smith, Alberta, for a few days. The river was too high for the ferry to run.

The only people we knew in Kinuso were the Schornacks; we attended school in Kinuso.

In February of 1934, I married Walter Stevenson; we had a family of six.

In 1954 we moved to Edmonton. Doug married a girl from Edmonton and they had four children.

Don also married a girl from Edmonton; they had five children. Dan also married and had two children.

Joan married a boy from Saskatchewan; they have four children. Howie has three children.

Brian married a girl from Calgary and they have two children.

submitted by Edith Stevenson

William Renwick Stevenson

Mr. and Mrs. Ren Stevenson and their two small sons Harold and Lloyd came to the Kinuso area in 1933, from the Oyen area. A daughter Evelyn was born a week after their arrival. Three more children were born, a daughter Ruth, in 1937, a son Raymond in 1944 and another daughter Gladys in 1946.

They first arrived at what was later known as Aspen Glen Auto Court, which at that time was owned by Mrs. Stevenson's uncle Albert Holliston. They lived different places the first three years, and took up a homestead one and a half miles south of Kinuso or half mile south of what was then known as the northwest corner. They had several milk cows, pigs and poultry and Mr. Stevenson worked on the road, maintaining with horses from Kinuso to Canyon Creek.

Mr. Stevenson later acquired a threshing machine and did much threshing throughout the district. Hay for the cattle was put up at the lake, which entailed many long cold trips in winter hauling home.

In 1942 they moved to the "Walker" farm, later purchasing it on crop shares, they also rented the "Rice" half section across the road. Mrs. Stevenson passed away in 1949, and the family moved to the Warburg district, and Harold and Lloyd took up farming there plus working in the coal mine and running "cats" for Hokan Hansen.

Harold married Joy From of Thorsby and they had

five children, Ronald, Dianne, Donna, Valerie and Jimmy. Jimmy was killed in a tragic car accident in 1972 at the age of 14. Harold was County Councillor for a number of years, drove school bus and farmed at Warburg. Harold and Joy still remain on the family farm at Warburg. Lloyd had purchased the adjoining quarter to Harold and after his marriage to Mae Olsen, moved to Edmonton where he worked at the Chem Cel plant and studied at home for ten years, acquiring his first class steam engineers papers. He later worked at the Gas Plant in Olds, then moved to Calgary where he worked as a boiler inspector for a large insurance company, later as an instructor at S.A.I.T. Lloyd and Mae had three children, Bill, Lyle and Inga. Lloyd presently lives in Medicine Hat and is employed as a Provincial Boiler Inspection Engineer.

Evelyn married John Kerekes of Warburg, they had three children, Darlene, Kenneth and Wanda. For several years they moved about with seismic construction crews, in 1960 they took up farming in the Warburg district, moving to Edmonton in 1972. Evelyn is presently employed at the Misericordia Hospital in Edmonton.

Ruth completed her high school in Edmonton, working for her room and board, she was employed at Woodward's after leaving school, moving to B.C. in 1955. She married Dick Callaghan and they had two children Eric and Brenda. They presently live in Abbotsford, B.C.

Raymond graduated from high school in Warburg, and later moved to Edmonton, he married Margaret Wegnar from Warburg, they have four children, Tracy, Schelley, Tammy and Kimberly. Ray apprenticed at Waterous G.M. Disel as a heavy duty mechanic, he later moved back to his farm in the Warburg (Breton) area and lives there now driving school bus.

Gladys was adopted by a first cousin in Spokane, Washington, Mable and Soreen Nordby (she was only three years old when her mother died). Gladys graduated from high school in Spokane and later married Al. Zielstra. Gladys and Al. have two girls Amy and Marjorie, they live in Chandler, Arizona.

Mr. Stevenson passed away in 1974 at the age of 83 years.

Mike and Dora Tanasiuk

Mike Tanasiuk was born November 6, 1894 in a part of Austria which is in present-day Rumania. He came to Canada in 1910, landing in Montreal. Mike moved into Saskatchewan where he worked on the railway, did odd jobs and worked on farms around Regina and Moose Jaw.

Dora Tanasiuk, born Dora Chomin, on September 16, 1896 was also born in that part of Austria which is now in the country of Rumania. Dora came to Canada in 1912, landing in Halifax. She worked first as a housekeeper, then in a restaurant in a hotel in Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan.

Mike and Dora met at Moose Jaw and were married there on November 21, 1914. They lived near Moose Jaw, and worked for a farmer. While at Moose Jaw two children were born. Annie in 1915 and Ed in

1918.

In 1919, Mike filed on a homestead at Hyas, Saskatchewan. This is where Mary was born in 1920. Again in 1921, the family was on the move — this time to Pepaw Plains to work for a rancher. The many moves with three small children were hard for Dora. Annie can remember holding a lamp in the back of a wagon so that her mother could change Mary's diaper as they were moving.

1923 saw the family on the move back to Hyas, with Nick being born along the way. In 1924, Mike bought an 80 acre farm near Hyas and the family settled down there. Willie was born on this farm in 1931. Like many pioneer women, Dora had all of her children at home usually with only a midwife in attendance. A doctor was there when Willie was born.

Another move in 1937 brought the family to a 3-quarter farm at Stenen, Saskatchewan. Farming during these years was hard as prices for farm products were so poor. However, Mike always managed to provide his family with sufficient food and clothing. Dora was happy and contented as long as her family was with her and healthy.

During these years, Dora was often called upon to act as a midwife to neighboring women. She helped bring many a child into the world. Dora was also there to help people prepare their dead for burial.

But Mike became restless again and in 1946, sold out and moved his family to Calling Lake, Alberta, where his brother, Nick, lived. Mike did not like the Calling Lake area.

Kinuso had a name for putting on good rodeos, and so they came to Kinuso to see the rodeo in 1947. This area looked like a good place to homestead. Doug McLaughlin told Mike and the boys where to go north of Kinuso to see good land which was up for homestead. In 1948, Mike and Nick and Eddie Samuelson came to Kinuso and picked out their homesteads. In the spring of 1949 the families started out from Calling Lake, freighting overland to Smith. From Smith they came to Kinuso by train, reaching here on May 3, 1949.



Tanasuik's moving from Calling Lake over the Smith Bridge in 1949.

On May 4th the wagons were loaded up and the women were moved out to the homesteads, so that they could see them. The men thought that the

homesteads were fine, but the women were more concerned with finding a place to pitch the tents for the night. Every clearing or high place seemed to be filled with either windfalls or ashes. Eventually, a favorable spot was found on neighbor John Skrynyk's land. In those first years, the country was dry. The closest water available for livestock was in a ditch also down by John Skrynyk's. The first chore was to put up some kind of shelter and so the men lost no time in erecting a small shack out of lumber. Garden spots were cleared and the women planted gardens, although they weren't too good that first year. All that first summer the men worked at clearing land. Mike's and Dora's log home was built that fall. Everyone pitched in to help with the building and the plastering or mudding as they called it, both on the inside and the outside of the house. That house saw many good times, especially the parties which were held when the family celebrated Ukrainian Christmas.

Dora always raised a garden, milked cows and looked after pigs and chickens until her health prevented her from doing so when she reached her late 70's. She loved her animals and would never go to bed at night until all the animals had been fed and looked after. Dora also believed that anyone who came to her home should be fed and she never let anyone leave her house without first being fed. One thing that she really enjoyed doing was spinning wool. She did this by hand, not with a spinning wheel.

Mike liked Kinuso, and when he reached here he settled down to stay. In 1954, Mike almost died when his ulcers ruptured and he had to be rushed to High Prairie for an emergency operation.

Farms were gradually cleared north of Kinuso. In 1954 the road which ran by their place was built. Graveling of it was started in 1955.

Mike loved moose hunting. In 1963, when Mike, Willie and Ed Samuelson were out hunting, Mike became separated from the others. He wasn't really lost in that he knew his directions, but he couldn't find his way back to the camp. So he headed East to the Assineau River which he could follow north to the highway. Willie and Ed were afraid that something had happened to him. So Ed took off on Mike's trail and Willie headed out to Kinuso to get some help.



Mike and Dora Tanasuik with their family.
Left to right: Annie, Willie, Nick, Mary.
Inset: Ed, the oldest son.

The whole community turned out to help look for Mike. This made the family very thankful that they had such good friends and neighbors. Everyone was surely happy when Mike arrived home in good health.

The next year, Mike and Dora celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary and in 1974 they again were able to celebrate their 60th wedding anniversary with their friends and family.

Mike was very handy with his hands and was good at working with metal. He also made himself quite a few different devices which would make haying easier. Mike was also a lover of horses, preferring them to machines as long as it was practical to do so.

Mike passed away September 9, 1975. Dora followed him a year later on September 7, 1976. They are both buried in the Swan Valley cemetery. They have 13 grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren.

Nick and Arlene Tanasiuk

by Arlene (wife)

Nick Tanasiuk, was born at Hyas, Saskatchewan, in Oct. 1923. Nick came to Alberta at the close of the second world war, in 1945. That fall he worked helping with the harvest at both St. Albert, and Andrew. For the next two winters, Nick freighted groceries from Slave Lake to Wabasca, and from Athabasca, through Calling Lake, and the Pelican Mts. to Wabasca. He pulled a sleigh with a team of horses, and loaded with 1500 pounds of groceries, plus feed for the horses. It took four days to travel one way, with a round trip being completed in 9 days. In 1947, Nick moved to Flat Bush. For the next two years, he cut pulp wood, and worked in a lumber camp.



1949, Nick Tanasiuk driving his team Dick and Colonel, on the move to Kinuso.

In the spring of 1949, Nick moved to Kinuso, and homesteaded on a quarter of land north of Kinuso. From 1949 to 1951, Nick logged for Imperial Lumber. Then in 1951, he set up his own sawmill. He bought his first vehicle, a three-quarter ton truck, in 1951 or 1952. His luck wasn't too good with sawmilling, so he quit in the spring of 1953. He worked in Edmonton, that summer. In the fall he purchased his first gravel truck, and started to work for the Department of Highways. Nick drove a gravel truck until the end of 1957.



Nick, Arlene, Eddy and Joan Tanasiuk, December, 1961.

Arlene Tanasiuk, was born Arlene Leavitt, at Cardston, Alberta, in 1932, moved to northern Alberta, April 25th, 1953 to teach in the Widewater school. She taught at Widewater until June, 1958.

Nick and Arlene were married in Edmonton, February 1, 1958. After they were married, they bought their present home, the Sherritt farm, north of Kinuso.

Arlene started teaching in Kinuso School in September of 1958, and has continued teaching until now (1979).

Nick bought the A. W. Rand farm which was just north of his home. He has run his farm, growing different grains, and raising cattle. He has worked out quite a few winters in the bush, or at various other jobs. They have two children,

Edward — born July 1st, 1959.

Joann — born February 19th, 1961.

Willie & Cecile Tanasiuk

Willie Tanasiuk, the youngest child of Dora and Mike Tanasiuk, was born March 13, 1931, in Hyas, Saskatchewan. He lived and worked in various parts of Alberta including: Calling Lake, Flatbush, and Culp. His family chose Kinuso as their home in 1949, and Willie settled with them on a farm 3 miles north of the town.

Cecile Posey Tanasiuk, was born April 9, 1940, in High Prairie, Alberta, the youngest child of Howard and Agnes Posey. She lived and worked in Kinuso all of her life. An active sportsperson, she excelled in the baseball field as well as the curling rink. Cecile moved to the Tanasiuk farm after her marriage to Willie on Aug. 15, 1958.

Willie and Cecile have four children: Cindy Ann, born May 20, 1959, Willie Howard, born June 11, 1961, Kim Noni, born August 18, 1962, and finally, a late addition to the family, Christine Cecile, born February 20, 1978.

On July 22, 1978, Cindy married Darrell Shewchuk, who came to Knuso in 1975.

All presently live in Kinuso.

The History of Fred and Irene Tanghe and Family

by Fred and Irene

Fred Tanghe was born in Kinuso, Alberta, on March 3rd, 1924, the youngest son of Louise and Emile Tanghe.

Fred was raised on the farm, and went to school in Kinuso. After leaving school he worked in the area, doing farm work, and trapped in the winter.

In the fall of 1943, Fred went into the Army, and was later sent overseas as a reinforcement with the Calgary Highlanders, and served in the United Kingdom, and continental Europe. After the War ended, he remained in Germany with the Occupational Forces. During this time he took up boxing, and spent a year in a boxing training camp in Holland. He was a runner up in the featherweight boxing finals.



Fred Tanghe boxing in Holland in 1945 during World War II. One point away from Championship.

In May, 1946, Fred returned home to Kinuso, and on July 30th, 1946, he married Irene Lisk, whom he had met before going into the army.

Irene was born at Osage, Saskatchewan, on Jan. 18th, 1928. She came to Kinuso with her folks in the spring of 1943. Her Father was employed by the Forestry Dept. as a Forest Ranger.

Fred and Irene made their first home in Slave Lake, where Fred worked for the Dept. of Highways. In May, 1950, they took up farming, three miles east of Kinuso. During the winter months, Fred worked as sawyer, and millwright in sawmills, and also did construction work.

He eventually owned five quarters of land, and has modern machinery. Fred was among one of the first farmers in this area to own a self-propelled combine and swather, and later went into a complete line of self-propelled silage equipment. He owned 500 head of cattle when the cattle prices dropped to as low as 6 cents per pound, in 1975.

Fred has been active in many community affairs. He served on the local school board for several years. He was President of the R.E.A., and helped promote rural power to the area.

In the fall of 1967, Fred built his own rural telephone line, with the help of three neighbors. Later on he was President of the committee that promoted the rural under-ground line.

Fred and Irene are active members of the Royal Canadian Legion, and Ladies' Auxiliary.

Five children were born to them:

Ruth — graduated from the University of Alberta in Edmonton, receiving her B. of Ed. degree. In May of 1968, she married Jules Leblanc of Jouvassard. They have one daughter Dana. Ruth now resides in Edmonton, and is a Language Arts Consultant with the Edmonton School Board.

Carol — attended Alberta College in Edmonton, and was in the May, 1968 Secretarial graduation class. They, she and Allen Wilton, were married in Aug. 1968. They now reside at Slave Lake, where Allen is employed with Amoco Petroleum Co. They have two sons, Galen and Jeffrey, and one daughter, Lisa.

Lyle — married Christine Fedorus of Widewater, in Sept. 1973. They reside in Kinuso, and have one daughter, Shari. Lyle is employed as an electrician at Slave Lake.

Leona — is at Slave Lake, and is employed with the Bank of Nova Scotia.

Lori — is taking her grade 12 at McNally Composite High School in Edmonton.

At the present time, Fred and Irene, still reside on the farm. Fred is employed as millwright with Zeidler Forest Industries at Slave Lake.

Joe and Betty Tanghe and Judy and Howard

Information by Betty Tanghe

Joe, who is the 2nd youngest son of Louise, and Emile Tanghe was born in 1922 on his parents farm, 5½ miles north of the town of Kinuso. It was the N.W. 31-74-9-W5th.

When he was seven years old, he lost his father in a fatal accident, while he was hauling grain, leaving a family of 7 to be raised by his mother (Louise). There

wasn't a school, where the children could go, closer than "town," so his mother moved the family to another farm which they owned, only 2½ miles east of the town of Kinuso. The children walked to school, through rain, mud, deep snow, and sometimes 40 degree weather. This probably accounts for Joe and Betty driving school buses, helping children to get a better chance, than they had.

When he was a young lad, he worked on farms in the area, being a farmer at heart. One of the jobs he enjoyed most, was running a threshing machine, which he did for several summers, working with Harry Hunt. After a few years of this, he bought an outfit of his own, and did custom threshing, till combines became popular. He then bought a hay baler, and baled for other farmers, but about this time he inherited a farm, and acquired a herd of cattle, so had very little time to bale for others.



Betty and Joe Tanghe.

Now, Betty was born in Manitoba, in 1919, and came west, with her parents in 1928, to an area, north of High Prairie, called Peavine. As a young girl of 16, she worked near High Prairie for \$5.00 per month. Later she worked in a 'Cafe' in Grande Prairie. In 1943, she joined the "Canadian Women's Army Corps," (C.W.A.C.) and stayed in that till the end of the War.

In 1950, Joe and Betty were married and lived on their farm. This was a very successful little farm, but wanting to run more cattle, they sold their land to Joe's youngest brother and rented the Charlie Magnus farm. Finally, wanting to own land again themselves they bought a half section from Eddie Erricson, and built a lovely new home.

While they lived at Charlie Magnus's in 1966-67, Joe took the job of running a school bus for the High Prairie School Division. When he took the job of driving a school bus for Don Stasow on the Deere Mountain run, Betty took over Joe's bus. After a few years this bus run was discontinued because the families moved out so Joe and Betty are still driving for the High Prairie School Division in 1979.

Joe and Betty have two children, Judy and Howard.

* * * * *

Judy was born in 1956, growing up and getting her primary education in Kinuso. She took 3 years



Judy and Howard Tanghe.

upgrading and finished her grade twelve. She is now working in the Kinuso School as a 'Teacher Aide'.

* * * * *

Howard, was born in High Prairie, in 1958. Took his schooling in Kinuso. Always being interested in sports, he played hockey for the 'Blazers' a Slave Lake team. This year he has been playing for the 'Jr. Winterhawks' for Slave Lake but had the misfortune of dislocating his shoulder.

After quitting school he worked in the Swan Hills oilfield as a 'Technical Assistant, or Assister.' He has worked for the Sr. Citizens and for the Spruce Point Park. As a hobby, he does carpenter work in his spare time.

Reg. Tanghe

Emil Tanghe arrived in Canada from Belgium in about 1914. He worked on the railroad until he homesteaded 5 miles north of Kinuso. Louise Whitford came from Flatbush with her family and settled in Aspen Glenn which was a small community east of Faust. Her family worked in a lumber camp in Faust. Emil and Louise were married and settled on the homestead Emil had bought. They worked together clearing brush off the land in order to seed crops. They also raised pigs, cattle, chickens, sheep, goats and horses. They made money off these by selling eggs, butter, potatoes, grain and livestock.

In the winter Emil would fish in the lake and sell them to Bill Menzie of Faust. Along with fishing, Emil trapper fur.

Emil and Louise had four boys and three girls. Reg and Julius were the oldest followed by Joe, Fred, Rema, Jessie and Viney.

Emil used to take Julius and Reg to school but finally bought the boys a horse and moved about three miles south east of Kinuso so they would be closer to school.

Louise and Emil milked twelve or thirteen cows,

but on one occasion they were working late in the field because it was going to rain. Reg and Julius decided to surprise them by milking all the cows but they received the surprise because their father decided that they could continue milking them since they were able to do it alone. Emil figured that Reg and Julius had made over \$1800.00 milking cows and feeding pigs, so he decided to give Reg the place he now owns and another place to Julius.

Emil was hauling grain off the farm Reg owned to the place south east of Kinuso with a team and grain tank. He was killed on the way home on Jan. 8, 1930 and Reg who was 13 at the time, managed the farm and his mother Louise managed the work while he was in school.

Reg and Julius joined the army in 1942. Reg was a private in Regiment No. M101369. Julius was also a private in World War II but was wounded January 1, 1944 and died on January 8 in Italy. Reg was discharged from the army in 1945. After coming back to Kinuso after the war, he started farming again.

Verna Cuthbert was born in 1928 in Glenora, Manitoba. She came to Alberta in the fall of 1928 with her family. They settled on a farm 20 miles north of High Prairie where Verna grew up. Verna and Reg met and on June 26, 1946 they were married. They live on the farm north of town.

On August 18, 1947 Virginia was born. She married Richard Larocque and they have three boys, David, Wade and Robert. They now live in Barrhead.

June was born on May 27, 1950 but died of polio on March 25, 1954.

June 29, 1955 John was born. He married Karen Davingnon on August 14, 1976 and they have two girls, Jody and Crystal. John and Karen live in House Mountain where John runs a grader.

Brenda was born on May 10, 1960 and is now working in Kinuso School.

Annette was born on November 21, 1963 and Marion on February 8, 1967. Both are attending Kinuso School.

The Thorburn Family

We arrived in Kinuso as a family on the afternoon of September 17th, 1958 having lived in High Prairie, Alberta, nearly seven years.

There were four of us at this time, daughter Kelly Ann (five months), son Miles Arthur (four years), my wife Marina and I, Kenneth Arthur.

Working for the Northern Alberta Railway we arrived by day coach with our furniture a few cars down the track. I remember the day as a beautiful afternoon, duck season just opened, and I was to miss opening day for the first time in many years. Some of my friends will understand this. Getting the use of Russ Gilletts pickup we wrestled our furniture over to the United Church Manse where we lived until July 1964.

I continued work immediately with the N.A.R. working as night operator until July 1960. Agents during this time were Dave Myron, Percey Carley and Jack Elliot.

During this year an event took place in the High Prairie Hospital. An addition was made to the family in the appearance of daughter Kerry Alison, born April 14, 1960.

In July of this same year, while the N.A.R. was closing small stations and cutting staff, I decided to give up the Morse code and the rails. I went to work for R. O. (Bob) Jordan as bookkeeper and front-end man of Swan Valley Service Garage, working there until April, 1972.

During this period of time we moved from the Manse over to Mrs. Annie Cline's house, for a short time, moving in the last days of June 1964. We immediately started plans to build our own home by ourselves and moved into our present home on November 4th, 1964.

In 1965, in High Prairie Hospital, we added to the family daughter Gwenith Alana, born on December 15th.

In 1968, again and lastly in the High Prairie Hospital, we added the fifth child, a son, Michael Mark Shawn, born on June 30th.

Marina liked children and especially small children. In the fall of 1970 she started as playschool instructor and did this for three years. Following playschool she instructed pre-school for three years deciding to resign in summer of 1976 when her mother became very ill with cancer. Pre-school assistant instructors during this time were Judy Kirtio, Betty Ann Sprowl and Rose Hunt. Cooks and helpers during this time were Fern Shoop and Marie Churchill.

In April, 1972, I commenced work for the High Prairie School Division as school custodian, soon after adding bus driving and in recent years driver education in-car instruction. These positions I still hold in 1979.

On November 11th, 1958, at a Remembrance Day banquet, I spoke on the Scout movement and in particular the Cub movement within it. The Legion accepted sponsorship and the first Cub meeting was held in the Legion Hall on December 4th, 1958, with seventeen boys, Cub leader Art Thorburn and assistant Cub leaders Marina Thorburn and John Kirtio. Marina and I held Cub meetings and activities for the following eight years. Other assistant leaders we remember and thank were Mary Lillo, Nini Grono, Olga Tomick and Peter Czelenski.

I spent part of a term and a following term on the Village Council under Mayors Peter Czelenski and Warren Ryback.

I have enjoyed working for several years on the executive of the Kinuso and District Fish and Game Association as secretary, hunter training chairman and president.

I have also been involved on the executive of the Wilderness Camping Association (Lesser Slave Lake) for the past seven years as director and then president. Hopefully a semi-wilderness group campsite will be completed on the south shore of Auger Bay on Lesser Slave Lake.

Kerry was married to Garry March, in Edmonton, Alberta, in the summer of 1978. They now have a son

Christopher Shannon and they reside in Edmonton.

Kelly completed her high school and first year of college at Camrose Lutheran. She has since worked as a security guard for Wackenhut of Canada Limited and as a cashier for Boisvert's at the Kinuso Mercantile. She expects to go back to school again.

Miles completed his high school at Camrose Lutheran College. He has since worked for the Forestry doing reforestation and is still working for J. Schoroth in construction work, masonry and insulation.

Mark and Gwenith are still going to school in Kinuso having completed their grades five and eight respectively.

Jack Turner — From Cobbler to Jeweller

Leonard John (Jack) Turner and his mother, Mrs. E. L. Turner came into Kinuso in 1922. Mrs. Turner and Jack first came to Kinuso for the purpose of visiting Jack's eldest sister, Mrs. Phyllis Cameron, the N.W.M.P. representative in Kinuso at that time.

The Turner family immigrated into Canada from Sussex, England in 1912.

Jack worked at various jobs in and around the community. In 1927 he married Cynthia Grono. They had two children, Hugh and Marjorie.

During the early 1930's Jack opened a Cobbler's Shop in Kinuso. He sold the shop in 1936. He then worked with Mr. McKillop who had the Imperial Oil Agency.

In November of 1940 Jack joined the R.C.A.F. While in the airforce, he was trained as an instrument technician. This training greatly benefitted him for his future career as a jeweller.

Jack returned to Kinuso after the war in 1945. Following this he and Vincent Rice built a store in Kinuso. It was in this building that he opened his first jewellery shop and watch repair. He operated this shop until 1949, at which time he moved to High Prairie and opened Jack's Jewellery. In the early '50's Jack married Dorothy McIntyre of High Prairie, Alberta. They had a son, John.

Jack operated this business right up until his death on November 28, 1963. Since his death his wife, Dorothy, has carried on the business.

Submitted by Marjorie Buck.

Edward & Julienne Twin

(As told by Clara Woodbridge)

Edward was a Soulteau Indian who, it is believed, travelled from the southeast region of Manitoba. The name Twin was given to the family because of twins born in the family.

During his younger years Edward worked as an oarman on the York boats pulling large boats.

Edward and his brother St. Germaine Twin, married sisters, Beaver Indian women. St. Germaine's wife, Bella, is known for shooting the largest grizzly in the Swan Hills with her Rabbit 22 rifle.

Working at various jobs along the way Edward travelled to Ft. St. John, Hudson Hope and Moberly

Lake. Edward and his first wife had four children; Mary Loyie and had 11 children, Louie Twin (married Lillian Orr) Frankie Twin (married Rose Haggerty) and had four children, Paul the youngest (deceased).



Edward and Julienne Twin, camping at Whitefish Lake with their daughter Clara (Manichos) — 1932.

In 1921 Edward met Julienne Courtorielle and settled in the Lesser Slave Lake area. They had six children; Clara Woodbridge (five children), Della Sowan (eleven children), Racheal Armitage (nine children), Lena Murdock (twelve children), Victor Twin (eight children) and Harry Twin, (deceased).

Working as a cook on the railroad, Edward arrived in Kinuso when the railroad came through. His family followed later and they settled at the Lake at Wapa Point where most of the native people spent the summer fishing and hunting.

The busiest time of the year for Edward and many others was during the fall when hunting trips often lasted several weeks. On one trip Pat Courtorielle with his family and Edward and his family shot fifteen moose and a number of deer. Racheal Courtorielle, Bellastick and Edward's wife, Julienne were kept busy drying meat and rendering fat. A large hole was dug in the ground where the fat was kept until they returned home. Pole racks were set up in three places and fires kept smoldering at all times to dry the meat. The dried meat was then put into gunny sacks for transport home. Racheal also made bread over the open fire. Baking it in lard pails with hot coals pushed around and under the pails. What meat wasn't dried at the site, it was dried upon their return home.

After a successful hunt preparations were made to have a tea dance. Small parcels of pemican, dried meat & rendered fat were prepared as tokens to be given to those travelling from far distances.

Edward was a handy carpenter and made his own toboggans, snow shoes and such for use on his trap-line.

Both Edward and Julienne were known for their knowledge in curing ailments. Julienne was a midwife and delivered many babies into the world. She is well remembered for her untiring service to others. She is also remembered for her blanket like moose hides and her moccasins which she sold to the town's people. Her birch syrup was the finest and was enjoyed by all her people.



Three of Edward Twin's children: Victor, Harry, and Lena; standing in front of the Grouard Mission — 1938.



Two of Edward Twin's children: Frankie and Clara.

Edward and Julianne lived a quiet life during their later years. Edward died at the age of 107 on September 8, 1968. Julianne died of cancer at the age of 91 on June 1, 1975.

Victor Twin

as told by Lena Twin

Born October 26, 1925 in Kinuso. Parents: Julianne Courtorielle and Edward Twin.

Victor spent his younger years in the Mission at Grouard where he received his schooling. When he left the mission he went trapping with his father in the area of Burnt Creek on Louie Twin's trap line.

On one occasion at Burnt Creek, Victor and Joseph Courtorielle were hunting squirrels when they came face to face with a standing grizzly bear. Both boys turned and fled, finding no difficulty getting over the fallen trees, they didn't stop until they reached Victor's Dad. Upon seeing them, he wanted to know what had given them the scared expressions. Having heard their story, his reply was, "You should both feel honoured that you came face to face with a grizzly bear because not many live to tell about it." He went back to where they had seen the bear as the boys had dropped their guns when they had fled. When Edward located the bear's tracks he was surprised to find that the grizzly bear had turned and went in the opposite direction from where the boys had fled. He couldn't understand it as it was very unusual.

There were many things Victor learned from his father. Especially about hunting and trapping. He knew how to track his prey and was very successful in his ability to call moose. He was a very religious hunter. After each kill he would cut the tip of the heart and put it on a sharp branch of a tree. He was also taught how to make Indian medicine by selecting certain special roots.

After trapping with his father he went to work on Dolphus Davis' farm, riding back and forth to work on his horse, Silver.



Victor and Lena Twin's wedding — 1949.

Soon after this he met Lena McRee and later while working for the railroad, they were married in the year 1949. They had eight children — five boys and three girls.

Roddie married Linda Eckstein — Have two children, Cameron and Tanya — Reside in Edmonton.

Josephine — Four children — Gale, Roy, Wade



Victor and Lena with 5 or their 8 children.
Middle: Josephine, Roderick.
Front: Karen, Harold, Leonard.

and Victorine.

Leonard married Anita Boily — Three children — Sean, Brannon and Sandy.

Harold married Brenda Johnston — One child, Brandy — Reside in Slave Lake.

Karen — Two children, Vicki and Clayton — Reside in Kinuso.

Larry, Lee and Tara are single and live at home.

While Victor was working for the Department of Highways he was elected Chief. In this way he was able to help his people on the reserve. While he was Chief, he was honoured with a medal for his involvement.

Victor helped his parents many times, providing meat from hunting trips and transportation when they needed it. He always lived close to his parents and had their last home built close to his home.

On one of his helpful taxi services driving his father to the hospital in High Prairie, he had an episode. He took Bobby, Clara's son, (known as B.T.) with him. Bobby mentioned later that Victor's car had a flat tire on the way and he didn't have a spare or patching. Victor wondered what to do. Then he and B.T. went to the bush and came back with spruce gum and patched the tire tube. They made it the rest of the way to High Prairie and back. This was one of the many things he could do. His mind was continually working on how to help or cope with problems that arose.

When Victor worked close to home he was active in community activities. He was always ready to help



Victor Twin — 1947.

in fund raising for recreational activities. He coached the Native Midget baseball team. After a baseball game he would have a barbecue with moose steaks or ribs, or a fish fry for the entire team. He also got the Indian Days going which was quite a success.

Victor had a second encounter with a grizzly bear not long before he died, which he told his oldest sister Clara about. The grizzly was standing on his hind legs. Victor said he had his rifle loaded but was slowly backing up to his truck. As he backed up he kept talking cree to the grizzly. Telling the grizzly that he had once let him and Joe go and now he was giving the grizzly a chance to live. He told the grizzly he only had to come down on his four legs and go on, which the grizzly bear finally did. Victor said later that it was a frightening experience since he could have fallen or tripped on a log while backing up to his truck.

In 1974 Victor and his son Leonard started their own logging operation. Buying their own skidders and working north of Slave Lake. During spring breakup he worked for the Sawridge Motor Hotel as a Tavern Manager.

On October 12, 1975 Victor and Leonard went to check on their camp at Red Earth. On the way they stopped to set a net in the Utikuma Lake. That evening there were strong, high winds. Their boat was found capsized and later their bodies were recovered.

A fatal fishing accident which left a great loss to family and friends.

Alan and Carolyn Uhrig and Family

Carolyn Uhrig (Robinson) born July 9, 1943 on a

farm near Kinuso. Started school at age six, and had to walk four miles to school in Swan Valley. I then finished school in Kinuso from grade two to twelve going by school bus



Alana, Caroline, Alan, and Angela Uhrig.

I moved to Edmonton in 1961 and worked for Loblaw's Groceteria. I met Alan Uhrig at Loblaw's where he was working as Meat Manager. Alan was born in Ontario, son of Orville and Mary Uhrig. The Uhrigs moved from Ontario to Sherwood Park when Alan was thirteen years old. We were married on July 18, 1964 in Edmonton and lived there until 1974. We purchased Hank and Tillie Griffins quarter section in 1972. We moved there to live in 1974. We have two daughters, Alana Louise, born November 8, 1972, and Angela Marie, born July 18, 1976.



The home built by Hank and Tillie Griffen.

Alan is working for Texaco Canada at Deer Mountain and also has a custom meat cutting business on the farm.

Jack Van der Horst

submitted by himself

I was born in Holland, but came to Kinuso, Alberta, in 1949. With my mother and sister, Margaret who later became Mrs. Fred Dumont, when I was only 12 years old.

I started my schooling all over again in Kinuso. In Holland, I was at a grade 6 level, but because I couldn't speak English very well, I had to start right back at grade I. I took 2 grades a year till I finished grade 12.

As there seemed no opportunities for me in Kinuso, I went to Edmonton in 1958, with only

\$75.00 in my pocket, and no job in sight.

So, I went to Business College for a year, then worked for Eatons, part time, for half a year.

In June of 1959, I started working for the Alberta National Drug Co. where after 20 years I am still employed.

VanDerMark Family

I first met Charley at the annual sports and stam-pede, the first of July 1938. He was born in Newfield, state of New York in 1916, the third child in a family of eight. In 1919 they moved to Canada where they homesteaded in Salt Prairie. Mr. VanDerMark worked in sawmills, or for farmers in the winter, and went to work on the railroad in High Prairie in the summer.

In 1922 they moved to High Prairie where Mr. VanDerMark went to work for the railroad full time. Charley Helmer was then first man, and relief forman. About 1924 Charley's dad bought the Helmer place, which became the family home.

In 1926 Mr. VanDerMark was transferred to Kinuso, bringing his family. They lived in a house owned by a man named Lewie Ritch, also in one owned by Jack Misco, which was later the old nurses home.

In 1927 Charley's mother returned to the States to visit her family, leaving him and older brother Lewis to finish the school year.

Mr. VanDerMark was transferred to Indiana, which was later renamed Jousard. The boys went to board with Edie and Charley Helmer, then joined their dad when school was out. Their mother was still in the States as brother Walter was seriously injured and spent many months in hospital.

When school started in the fall the boys went to live at the Catholic Mission in Jousard during week days to attend school.

About 1928 the whole family was back in High Prairie for good, the children attending regular school again.

After leaving school Charley worked for farmers and on the railroad for a time. Like many men in those lean years, Charley spent a lot of time travelling from place to place, riding the rods, that was hitching a ride on a freight train. They were hunting for a job of some kind where none existed. There was always some kind of work at harvest time. For several years Charley went to Fairview district in the fall. There he stooked for \$2.50 a day and got \$3.00 for threshing. When, we met he used to come to visit, either hitch hiking or riding the freight. We were married in High Prairie on October 9, 1939. We'd had a big snow storm on the 2nd and it turned cold. It was more like mid winter. We went to live on his dad's homestead south and west of High Prairie. The weather turned warm in November so we borrowed a team and wagon, loaded up some feed and headed for Kinuso. We had to pick up the rest of my belongings and move the livestock. I had some milk cows, a calf and some pullets I had raised. Mom had given us a little sow for a wedding present.



1956 — The VanDerMark family.

After visiting Mom we loaded up chickens, pig, and the calf, then set off for High Prairie. It took us three days to make the trip. We camped out at night near Driftpile the first night, then went to Jousard where the calf got loose and headed for the bush. It was dark, and we never found her till the next morning. There was no snow, and the ground was thawed pretty well by now, it had been pretty icy when we made the trip down. We got to High Prairie December 6th. It was just like spring, with temperatures in the mid fifties. It stayed mild till March when we got a big snow storm and 42 degrees below.

The summer of 1940, we made the trip again with a team and buggy. We brought back a team of broncs that Charley was to finish breaking. We stopped for lunch where the Driftpile nursing station now stands. It was all stumps then, something scared the horses and they ran away. I was glad to be on the ground as I was about seven months pregnant, Charley got some broken ribs.

That fall a grass fire came in and almost burned down our stooks. We spent hours fighting it. A few days later the threshers came. The day after they



The VanDerMark diamond willow work.

finished our son Lloyd was born. That was September 28, 1940. Bonnie was born in February of 1942. That fall Charley helped haul poles for the telegraph lines that the Americans were putting in.

In November we moved everything back to Mom's then Charley went to Edmonton to join the army. He was sent to Grande Prairie to train, later becoming a trainer himself. He was sent overseas in the spring, where he served in Europe with the Canadian Scottish Regiment. He was taken prisoner twice, the first time he escaped, and was released the second time by the allies just before the end of the war in Europe.

When the war was over we lived in a little house at Mom's until 1950, when we bought the Shornack place. We have farmed here for twenty nine years. Our second son was born in 1952 in September, and two years later Hermie came along. Bonnie is married to Earl Sloan and lives in the Swan Valley on the old Jesse Sloan farm. Lloyd is married and living in Prince George, B.C. where he works for the forestry. Hermie married Brian Huculak in August 1971. They moved around alot and are now living on our farm, which they have taken over. We kept a few acres for ourselves, and have now retired.

Son Chris is still unmarried and lives at home part time.

Ernest and Dorothy Walker

As told by Dorothy Walker

Ernest was born in Driftpile, Alberta on July 9, 1921. His parents, Benjamin Walker and Justine Hamlin, are both deceased. He has two brothers, Jack living in McBride, B.C. and Robert who resides in Faust, Alberta. His one sister, Eva Ward, lives in Edmonton, Alberta.



Dorothy and Ernest Walker on their Wedding Day. Best Man, Zerna Courtorielle and Bridesmaid, Fern Shoop.

I, Dorothy, was born in Kinuso on November 20,

1929. I have one brother, Lawrence, who is still a bachelor at age 42 years and two sisters, Elsie and Doris, both married. Elsie Stenstrom, born April 17, 1935, has two sons, Dean and Wade. My younger sister, Doris Courtorielle, and her husband Gordon have three girls and two boys.

The Dumont clan goes back to my grandfather, Gabriel Dumont, who came from Saskatchewan to reside in Alberta. He married Marie Louise St. Arnault and had four daughters and three sons. Louise Baker and Margaret Baker (married brothers), Annie Luscombe, Agnes (died in 1959), George, Charlie and Pete.

Gabriel Dumont passed away in 1946 and Marie Louise Dumont passed away November 11, 1969 in Kinuso at the age of 84.

Before her death in 1969, Marie Louise raised about 12 of her grandchildren. She was also a midwife and brought many children into the world. She was recognized for her untiring service to humanity and one year before her death was presented with an award.

My great-grandfather, Gabriel Dumont, was the right-hand man of Riel and is now a historic figure. My father, Pete Dumont, is his grandson.

I met my husband, Ernest, in 1951. May 1952 he started working for an extra gang on the railroad. We moved from town to town by train. When work was completed in one town we would load our gear, consisting of a tent, airtight heater, blankets, clothes, wash board and tub, and a grub box, in a boxcar and move on to the next town. There were about 15 families.



Walker Family.
Back: Darlene, Ernest.
Front: Wanda, Dorothy holding Denny.

We finally settled in Kinuso where we stayed with my parents, Pete and Susan Dumont. Ernest started working for Imperial Lumber in 1953 and I went to work as a cook at the Kodiak Lodge Cafe. I later took a five month leave of absence to have my second daughter, Wanda, and seven years later my youngest daughter, Denny. I continued to work until December of 1968. On January 4, 1969 Ernest was transferred to Grande Prairie.

Recently, Ernest was inducted into the Canfor 25 Year Club at the 50th Annual Banquet held in Vancouver, B.C. Along with two other employees, he received a gold watch and one gold and one bronze service badges.

Four years after moving to Grande Prairie, we applied as Foster Parents and are presently caring for three foster children and five handicapped.

My two oldest children, Darlene Bruno and Wanda Johnson, are both married. Denny, who is 17, still lives at home. In November 1978 we adopted Jason who is now 3½ years old.

We have six grandchildren — five of which we raised.

Ken and June Ward and Daughter, Carol

by Dorothy Clow

My Brother, Kenneth Earl Ward, and his wife June, and daughter Carol Ann, came to Kinuso in 1961. Ken was working on the bridge gang, and was constantly moving from one place to another. They tried getting correspondence for Carol, so she wouldn't miss school, but the lessons always came to the place they had just left. So they decided to look for another job. They loaded up and took off. Every place they came to, they stopped and inquired about a job. So when they came to Kinuso, Ken had a job starting the next day. He worked for Kodiak Lodge Hotel, Bob Jordon, Buster Churchill, and other and varied jobs here. June also worked at the Hotel. Then they decided they wanted a baby boy. Gordon Kenneth was born Feb. 4, 1964, and came to live with his parents in Kinuso. When Ken had a job offer in a saw mill at Canal Flats, B.C., they packed up their belongings.

They saw their daughter Carol married to Ron Saitz, then left the district for their new home. They come back every year for a visit. It's really great to see them!

My niece, Carol Ann Ward Saitz, and her husband, Ron, live in Kinuso. They have three boys, Daryl, Lee, and Owen. Daryl and Lee both go to school, and Owen still is at home keeping his Mother busy until he can go to school.

Annie and Alex Wasylyk

Annie was born June 25, 1915, in Moose Jaw, Sask. As a small child Annie was not very fortunate in getting her schooling as the family lived far from any school. However, when she was 13 years old, the family settled at Hyas, where she was at last able to attend school. Here she learned to read and write in both English and Ukrainian.

Alex was born December 19, 1907, in a part of Austria which today is in Russia. He attended school for four years, but when he was eleven years old, the War interrupted his education.

Alex worked as a weaver helping his father until he came to Canada in 1929. He landed in New York, came to Montreal by train, then to Mundare, Alberta, where he worked on his uncle's farm for 2 years. He then went to work for a farmer at Hyas, Sask.

Here he met Annie and when she was seventeen, they were married November 8, 1932, at Stenen, Sask.



Left to right: John, Alex, Annie, Vic and Elsie Wasylyk.

After they were married Alex worked for farmers clearing land with a grub hoe and did other kinds of work. In 1937, he was able to move onto his own land at Stenen.

Annie and Alex have three children, John born in 1933, Victor born in 1937, and Elsie born in 1940. All three children were born at home with the help of Annie's mother.

Very often Annie was left alone with the children while Alex was away working to help with the cost of living. This meant that the children were alone in the house while she was outside doing the chores. She remembers well one time when a bad wind and a blizzard came up, and she was forced to crawl on her hands and knees to get back to the house.

Another time when she was alone with the children, Victor was taken very ill and at times she thought she would lose him. But after about a week he began to show improvement and was finally completely well.

John and Victor started school in Saskatchewan.

In 1946, Alex and Annie decided to move to Alberta along with the rest of Annie's family. They came first to Calling Lake where they lived for three years. They tried their hand at mink farming but weren't too successful at that. In 1949, they made another move, this time to Kinuso, living on Nick Tanasiuk's homestead until Alex could obtain his own. Annie recalls a frightening moment when Nick was moving their things. He had returned with a second load to find a truck from the first load on fire. He managed to put out the fire before much damage was done. Someone on a neighboring piece of land

had allowed a fire to get out of control and it had spread with the help of the wind.

Another incident they still chuckle over was the time the wind was so strong it blew their breakfast away. She had been cooking it outside near the tent they occupied while their house was being built.

Alex applied for his homestead in 1949. They moved onto this land in 1951 to a newly built log house. They still live there today in a newly built house which was built in 1975. Elsie had started school in Calling Lake, so now both she and Victor attended school in Kinuso.

They have been fairly successful in farming in Kinuso. John has added three quarters of land to the original farm in 1953 and 1955. But the high lake levels have interfered with their farming the last few years.

Annie had been troubled for some time with goiter and high blood pressure. In 1953, she had an operation in the High Prairie Hospital to correct this problem.

They have always grown a very large vegetable and flower garden. Annie has taken many trophies at the flower shows and fairs.

They also have milked cows over the years, as many as 24 at one time.

Elsie married Ray Duchesneau in 1957, giving Annie and Alex five grandchildren, Sheryl, Brian, Susan, Allan and Tommy. They make their home in High Prairie.

Along with all the hard work, Annie still finds time to do many handicrafts such as quilting, silhouette painting, Easter egg painting, baking for all special occasions, and many others. She is known far and wide for the beautiful decorated wedding, anniversary, birthday, and special occasion cakes she turns out.

Bert and Neva Watson

Bert and Neva Watson with their young family of four came to the Swan Valley from Travers, near Lethbridge in April, 1932. Bert was a grain farmer and came west to get away from the drought in southern Alberta.

For three years we lives on a farm rented from Dick Riggs, about five miles southeast of Kinuso. We did grain farming and raised a few head of cattle and pigs.

Ole, Joe and myself went to school in Swan Valley. We walked or rode a horse the three miles one way. All three of us at times on one horse. When the Swan River was high and we were on foot, we rode across it in a rowboat with Alan and Stan Sloan, if we managed to get there in time. I'm afraid we missed our share of school in bad weather during those three years.

Corky was too young for school in the valley, but in 1935 we moved into town and he started school there.

Doreen was born in Kinuso.

In 1936 we moved to Canyon Creek, where my Dad started a mink ranch, with mink in shares from Calvin Vernon. The mink were on a share basis of one for one. Dad also worked a daily shift in the Fish

Hatchery in Canyon Creek.

We all finished our schooling in Canyon Creek. The three boys helped with the mink and fished. Evelyn was born in Canyon Creek. When the war broke out and the two boys were old enough they joined the Armed Forces. Ole to the Air Force, and Joe to the Army. Ole made a career of the Air Force. He met and married Kay in Ottawa. They have five children. Ole has retired from the service now and he and Kay are living in Edmonton with their three youngest children.



Mr. and Mrs. Don McVean and Family.
Left to right: Chris, Randy, Lorraine, Les.
Front: Peggy, Don, Alison.

Joe came home from the war and went to work in the oilfields. He passed away in Australia in 1976. Joe never married.

Corky worked for the N.A.R. as a night operator in the station and was transferred to various places in Alberta. He met and married Peggy O'Dwyer, a teacher, in Smith. They have five children. Corky quit the N.A.R. and moved his family to Nelson, B.C. He finished his education and he too is teaching school in Nelson.

Doreen Clark and her husband Charlie, live in Sherwood Park. They have two girls.

Evelyn Pollard and her husband Russ, live in Edmonton. They have three children.

My husband, Don, was a mink rancher in Widewater when we married in 1945. We have continued to live here. I have worked in the Slave Lake hospital the last ten years. We have three children. Lorraine Brager and husband Les live in Camrose. They have one daughter, Alison. Our only grandchild. Chris lives in Edmonton and works for the City Water Dept. Randy is in his third year electrical apprenticeship and works for an electrical company in Slave Lake.

Dad passed away in 1951, while cutting hair. He was the local barber in Canyon Creek.

Mom worked in the store in Canyon Creek for a while, then for Bill LaFrance in his store in Widewater. She passed away in Edmonton in January, 1964.

Submitted by Peggy McVean.

Reminiscences By Albert B. Wetter

The historical outline is given to compare the experiences of a teacher graduate of 1924 and of today.

It was the end of April 1924 that the principal of the Camrose Normal School called me into his office. As can be expected I and many other graduates were eagerly looking for work after having completed a short seven months teacher training course. The principal had been requested by the board of the Swan River School District to secure a male teacher. He offered me the position, and as work was scarce I accepted without hesitation, even though I had no idea where Kinuso was or what was involved. A farm boy who had not even reached 18 years was soon to find out.

The family was quite perturbed to see me go into the far away unknown. Mother was very reluctant to see her youngest leave, but dad was more realistic. Hurried preparations began, one brother gave me a suit another his watch and mother remodeled an old coat. These were considered essentials over and above the usual personal belongings. Dad borrowed a little money and I was on my way.

On arriving in Edmonton I found the E. D. and B. C. station was miles from the C.P.R., so had to take a taxi. What an experience to ride the first time on that train and sleep in a berth. I thought I was too old to be rocked to sleep or rather rocked awake as well.

Arrived at Kinuso around midnight. Mr. McKillop, the postmaster and the secretary-treasurer of the school district met me, took me to Mrs. Beagles place to sleep the rest of the night.

The next morning Mrs. Moore and Jean arrived in a buggy, Mrs. Moore immediately made me feel at home, as she most likely realized what a change it meant for me. However I was so lonesome for awhile that I would have returned home but I had only 16.00 left. Incidentally that money was to do me until I received 20.00 to go by train to the first of July celebration at High Prairie. Pay was not regular in those days but it was all received eventually. So in early May 1924 my first day of school began. What a day, who was the most apprehensive, a nervous young teacher or 16 excited curious pupils ranging from 6 years to



Reverend Young, Mr. and Mrs. Albert Wetter — 1967.

almost within my age. Discovered very quickly that normal school hadn't given me all the answers. However after a month or so we learned to know each other and I can say without hesitation that I never enjoyed other teaching positions any better than in Swan River school.

A real friendship developed with the pupils which has remained to this day. Well they did exercise the privilege of playing tricks and putting things over — but we all laughed and had fun.

During the time I taught there I walked to school nearly two miles and did the janitor work. The kindling was prepared before leaving and it didn't take long the next morning to have a roaring fire going in the old wood stove. The children came to school on foot, by horse, buggy, and the Tom Sloan children crossed the river by boat.

Approximately two years were spent in the valley, I recall many experiences a few of which I will relate. The most impressive was the cohesiveness and hospitality of the people. There were no roads into the area, just the railroad, trails and the lake route. Cars were the rare exception, so horses were the chief means of travel.

The telephone system was a local enterprise of the one wire type, so weather conditions made its use disastrous at times. It was only natural that people shared each others sorrows and happiness, and of course were up to date on local news.

Dances and local functions were well patronized. Because the valley was rather isolated from undesirables outside influences, and with no beer parlor, life was usually so quiet and peaceful.

The Moores where I boarded were wonderful to me and treated me as one of the family, so I soon overcame my home sickness. My own mother couldn't have treated me better than Mrs. Moore. She had a way of giving sound advice when needed. What a wonderful cook and sandwich maker. I even learned to like oatmeal porridge, cooked the Scottish way — started the evening before in a double boiler. Yes, though the log house had a sod roof with a nice willow growing on it, and sheets were used for bedroom partitions, yet it was truly a home.

No matter where you went in the valley the people always made you welcome any time of day or night.

The outdoors appealed to me, so I purchased a rifle from Walker's store. That 30-06 is still with me. Mr. Moore taught me target shooting. Learned to hunt from the uncles up the valley — Tom, Charlie and Dave. Had many fishing trips up Swan Creek, usually with one or more of my pupils. Even walked to the top of Grizzly Mountain twice. Had so many excursions in the woods.

One year the forest fires were very bad. Remember Mrs. Moore lighting the lamp at four in the afternoon in the summer. What an eerie sight, the sun was a ghostly spectre. Wanted to go fight fires, but learned that some occupations were excluded including teachers.

Always had Christmas concerts. Funds were solicited and the ladies bought and packaged the treats. The school was crowded every time, and the

pupils loved to handle the whole program themselves. Sylvia (Dove) Sloan loved being M. C., of course with the advice of others.

Had a student minister from Ontario during each of the summer months I was there. One could render a memorized sermon with gusto. He put on a play in town with local talent called "Eyes of Love." During practices I walked to town and back, getting home in time for breakfast and then on to school. Later Mr. Moore gave me a horse to ride — never could learn to ride. Seemed that was the rainy season that year. On a very dark night, taking a short cut through a pasture, I stampeded a herd of cattle. Have never been able to equal the 100 yard dash since. On a very rainy night I even saw a fox fire for the first and only time. What a scary experience.

The other minister rode horseback to cover his territory. Slept on the shore of Lesser Slave Lake one night. Was he a mess the next day after the sand fleas got through with him. He had bandages wherever he could put them. One time he accompanied Uncle Dave on a hunting trip. Came back with a few choice words not commonly used by ministers.

Well I remember the wild fruit — saskatoons, blueberries, strawberries and cranberries. Tame strawberries from Sangsters and Friend Fraser went well with rich country cream.

Recall often the wonderful music of Marie Sloan and the first radio of Roy Sloan's. It seemed to take him hours to tune in that Atwater Kent. Well it had five fine dials to adjust. We listened to this new wonder as the fire roared in the old drum stove. The odor of drying socks permeated the room.

In June of 1926 I reluctantly left the valley. On my recommendation the board decided to make the school year September to June, with holidays during the summer instead of winter.

It was good to get back to the valley's 50th anniversary in 1967, and meet so many former friends and pupils. It was even a greater pleasure to attend the 50th anniversary of Sylvia and Ernest Sloan in 1977. I considered it a highlight in my life. It seemed so unusual to have two of my first pupils celebrate their 50th wedding anniversaries that year while the best I could do was 42 years. One sad note though, I sorrowfully missed the pupils who had passed on.

One change I noted on my last visit, Kinuso was a thriving town in 1924 with so many businesses. In 1977 it seemed as if it had withered somewhat. The valley as a whole, however, had retained its nostalgic appeal. Some people I had learned to love and respect were gone, but the spirit of hospitality and warmth was still prevalent. May it ever be so in the beautiful valley of Swan River.

Mildred Sloan Wilson

Mildred was born to Sylvia and Ernest Sloan July 18, 1928 in High Prairie at a little maternity hospital run by Mrs. Bliss.

Mildred lived for the first few years of her life on a farm 15 miles from Kinuso. In the spring of 1932, in May, Mildred took sick, later found to be appendicitis by our district nurse, Mrs. Cole.

There were no gravel roads at that time in the district and the roads were next to impossible, even for a team and wagon. Due to heavy rains the approach to the Swan Creek bridge had washed away. The nurse said Mildred would have to be taken to the hospital on the next train, which at that time went twice a week from Edmonton West. As they could not cross the creek with a team, planks were placed from the bridge to the bank and Mildred was carried across. Then taken by team to Kinuso, where Mildred and her mother were met by Nurse Cole. Nurse Cole accompanied them to Peace River where Mildred was operated on and remained in the hospital for one month.

She received most of her schooling in the Swan Valley school, her first year was taken by correspondence taught to her by her mother.

Mildred was a very good daughter helping her parents in many ways. Mildred started working out at an early age, as a telephone operator in Grande Prairie and Edmonton.

Mildred married an R.C.M.P. constable, A. C. Wilson, better known as Ted. They raised three sons, Richard (Dick), Don and Dan, who are all in the R.C.M.P. Ted is now an R.C.M.P. superintendent in Vancouver, British Columbia.

Richard bought land in the valley, SW $\frac{1}{4}$ Sec. 7 Tws 72, R 9, W5. He married Jean Scott of Edmonton, and has three children, Todd, Glenda, and Trevor. Don married Debra Franchuck of Smoky Lake, and Dan is still unmarried. Mildred passed away February 17, 1976 in White Rick, B.C. and is buried in the Swan Valley cemetery.

Don and Dorothy Wilton

by Dorothy Wilton

Don was the oldest of the Wilton children: Don, Margaret, Dolphie, and Mary. He grew up in Kinuso, taking his schooling there. He spent his time in and out of his father's garage, and learned much about mechanics and other mechanical things.



Don and Margaret Wilton — 1930's.

When he grew up he became a welder and mechanic.

He worked 23 years for Imperial Lumber in Kinuso, then moved to Grande Prairie, when the mill moved there, and worked 11 years there until 1968.

The last 5½ years, he worked as an Instructor of

Welding and Mechanics, for the Grande Prairie College.

He married Dorothy Wilson of Athabasca, and they had two boys, Allan, and Brian, who grew up in Kinuso.

Allen married Carol Tanghe, and Brian is also married. They both make their homes and work in Slave Lake for Amoco Petroleum.

Dorothy also now makes her home in Slave Lake.

Don passed away October 27th, 1978 of leukemia.

Harry Wilton Family

Our family had its start when my mother, Sophia Coles, recently arrived from Prince Edward Island, and my father, Harry Wilton from Shathroy, Ontario, met at a dance at Knee Hill Valley, Alberta. They married and farmed in the area for several years during which time Donald and Margaret were born. Then they moved to Gibbons, Alberta, where I, Randolphia was born.

In 1930 we came to Kinuso and moved into a house near Walkers house, on or near the site of P. Czelenski's house. Mary was born here in 1931.

My father rented a building west of Walker's store and started a garage. Later he bought property where Jordan's present garage is and built a house and in due time a garage. In 1943 the garage was destroyed by fire and a new one rebuilt on the original site. I believe it is still standing.

It was a good town to grow up in and I have pleasant memories of it. I remember the flood of 1934 and of boating down main street. Of course, in those days, the big event of the year was the 1st of July sports. My father spent endless hours arranging the parade for many years.



Left to right: Don Wilton, Oli Curtis, Harry Wilton, Elmer Churchill.

Our family grew up. Don married Dorothy Wilson, and have two children, Allan and Brian. They lived in Kinuso many years before moving to Grande Prairie. Don passed away in October, 1978.

Margaret married Russell Rhodes and after living in various places across the U.S. have retired to a farm in Kansas. They have five children, Marjorie, Nancy, Ralph, Carol and Theresa.

Mary married Doug Cornell and after various moves in Alberta, have settled in Kelowna. They have three children, Dennis, Terry and Eldeen.

I married Joe Wilson and after moves around

northern Alberta, we located in Victoria, B.C. where we lived for twenty years and raised ten children. Gordon (killed in '76), Ron, Judy, Joan, Margaret, Susan, Joyce, Linda, Bill and Mary. In 1976 we moved to Kelowna.

Our mother passed away in 1954 at the age of 60. Father passed away in Victoria, where he lived for twenty years, in January of 1979, at the age of 86.

No members of our family remain in Kinuso now.

Steve Winters

(My years in Kinuso) (1942-62)

While not really an old timer of Kinuso, I have been asked by our dedicated authors to contribute my bit, to help preserve the history of Kinuso and district. So, I will endeavour to put into print, my impressions and experiences, and to pay tribute to those old timers to whom we owe our respect, because if it wasn't for them, we would not be enjoying the fruits of their efforts.



Mr. and Mrs. J. Winters and Steve. Taken evening before they left for Ontario.

It was by the guidance of fate, that I seemed to spend a good part of my life in Kinuso. I was the usual prairie product of the Sask. thirties, so I rode the rails (rods) for an important reason. We had heard there were jobs to be had elsewhere if we were lucky, and darned if I wasn't lucky, because in a flop house in Edmonton, I heard of a new logging camp at Mitsue Lake, 10 miles south of Slave Lake.

"Flop House," in this case is not a derogatory term. This was a Ukrainian house, which gave us a sleeping space for 10¢, and a big meal for 20¢, and everything was very clean.

There I caught the tender of the passenger train in Calder Yards, and with a dozen others, we arrived at Mitsue water tank after midnight. A team and sleigh met the train for mail, so we got a ride to camp. Since all they wanted were bodies, we were home free, at

\$20.00 per month, and more grub than we'd ever seen. My buddy and I had a friend, who was a flunky, and he slipped us a pie at noon dinners in the bush, so we ate our half pie a piece, about 3:30 in the afternoon. Now, that was "really liven!!"

The foreman of the Chisholm sawmills was a big moose of a man named Sam Howe. When he took off from camp at 7 A.M., to the logging operation, four miles into the bush, we darned near had to run to keep up, but on the way back to camp, after 5 o'clock, it was all down hill, so I would get into a half trot, (now they call it jogging), and get in, and get washed up, so to be first at the feed "trough."

It just goes to show how a little guy of 120 lbs. can really get motivated.

Back to Wilkie for the summer, and back again to Chisholm Sawmills for the winter of 1940-41.

I know this is not too related to Kinuso, but it is still part of the history of the district.

Now, back to my story. In March 1941, I received a skull fracture and spent 5 weeks in High Prairie Hospital, and that is where the path started to lead to Kinuso. There, I met Scotty McNeil, who had just lost 2 fingers, and Jack Kileen, who I think had lost some toes. Through those connections, I found a farm for rent at Kinuso, and as my parents were looking for greener pastures, I asked Finnie Hill, who was sort of an agent for the Riggs place, if we could rent it. I guess he liked my looks, because he immediately said "sure, I guess so."

Then, I joined up, and on coming back from the Canadian Army, overseas, I figured Kinuso had it all over Wilkie, where we had to travel 25 miles to get saskatoons, and here was every variety of wild fruit at the back door, plus hunting and fishing, like you would never believe.

So, I bought the Riggs place through the V.L.A., 7 miles south of Kinuso. The cemetery was on my place, as this was where the town was originally supposed to be, as reasoned by the first settlers, but the railroad passed them up. It was for the best, because I know the ghosts all appreciated the peace and quietness. (Yes, I knew them personally).

This farm, like others, had been cropped for 35 years, without summer fallowing, and it still produced 50 bushels to the acre. Of course, there were some bushels of wild oats, also which I proceeded to radicate. Some will react, and say "huh," that guy sowed as many as he killed. But, "how did they know?" Any re-sowing I did, was after dark. HA!

At this time, I was fortunate to be on hand, and was really intrigued by the stories told by the old timers. When Jesse Sloan, George Moore, and Finnie Hill got together they were real prizes of information, and to think I didn't take notes! I sure got the impression Kinuso was a wild little place, when it was first formed, and there were many humorous stories told, like the time Joe Stone had to leave his load about Deer Mountain, in 1910 or so. He put up a sign saying "Keep hands off", as Finnie Hill told me 35 years later. It was funny because there wasn't a white man within 40 miles, which reminds me that I found Kinuso district to be comprised of people who were

completely honest. A bit rough in spots, but the last frontiers are like that.

I sold my farm in 1956, and I was still batching and was going a bit mental from living alone. In later years my wife doesn't mind me saying so!! I got married and proved it. Then I procured the Valley bus route, and some of those kids taught me more than I taught them. After a couple of years, the kids and I seemed quite compatible.

My numbers came up in 1958, when I married a girl from Victoria. I did warn her of the frontier bit. Coming through Edmonton, I picked up 100 lbs. of flour. (Sorry Art!) Margaret said "that 10 lbs. would do." But I told her she wouldn't find a bake shop in Kinuso. She figured I had pulled a fast one, when she saw people stuffing store bread in shopping carts, at Kinuso. I won out on the flour, as Mrs. Gallagher showed her how to bake bread, but I guess she didn't tell her that buns also had to rise. She sure bakes good buns now, anyway.

In the meantime, we were blessed with a baby girl. Heather is now 18, and is engaged, and we're living in Victoria B.C., and sometimes I wish we were in Kinuso.

As a supplement, I stumbled on this record of business people in Kinuso in 1922. It was contained in a booklet put out by "Wrigley's," and recorded the same, for all towns of Alberta. It is in the possession of a cousin of Margaret's, Mrs. Bill Scott of Gadsby, Alberta. They would be glad to share information to help other towns in any research.

Kinuso — 1922

Telephone, Bank, R.C. Church, Public Hall, and School, Telegraph Office, and Stores. Land averages at \$25.00 per acres. About 150 farmers.

Jim Jackson — J.B. Insurance; Kusch Chas — Boat Builder; Musto, T. — School Principal; Nickolson, C. — Hotel; McGowan, J. — Building Contractor; Osgood, George — Prov. Police; Patterson, Russ — Blacksmith; Pierce & Rice — General Store; H. W. Walker — Postmaster & Store; Riggs, Otha —

Livestock buyer; Stevenson, E. — Contractor; Whitecotton, Nellie — Swan River Hotel; Vanderaegan E. — General Store; Whitecotton, Matt — Gen. Store and Magistrate. Kinuso P.O. and Station on south 23-73-10-W5th, on E.D. & B.C. Railway, in Grouard Electoral Div. 191 mi. N.W. of Edmonton.

Ella and Charles Wood

Mrs. Ella Wood was born at Chaseburg, Wisconsin on July 28, 1884, and moved when still a child to Viroqua, and later to Sparta, where she met and later married Charles Wood on December 27, 1905.

Almost all at once, with her husband's parents, the young couple moved to Lethbridge, Alta. Here they farmed until 1931 when, with their two sons Ralph and Lloyd, they came north and located on a homestead four miles north and west of the town of Kinuso.

The family, Mrs. Wood recalls, made their home in a sawmill cook house, owned by Clarence Fields, until such time as they could cut a trail out of the bush to the homestead and build a log house there.

The family had a car, brought from the prairies. Mrs. Wood says, but for want of a road they couldn't use it, and it stood idle. Even the best roads in the north at that time were impassible for a car unless the ground was frozen. In the summer months, it was not impossible to bog down with a lumber wagon hitched behind a good team of horses. With team and wagon or on saddle horse, was the only means of travel unless as all pioneers have done on occasion one wished to walk.

In 1943 Mr. Wood and son Ralph left the farm and operated a dray business in Kinuso until 1952, when Mr. Woods health began to fail, the farm was sold, and the couple retired, living in Kinuso until Mr. Woods death in 1956. Left alone Mrs. Wood spent her time visiting and boarding out until moving to Pleasant View Lodge in High Prairie.

Mrs. Woods has two sons, six grandchildren and five great grandchildren and one great great grandson, Larry Wood, born January 15, 1962.

Chapter Eight

Stories of the District

Mr. Charlie Griffin

Charlie Griffin was born in Marmoua, Ontario, in 1893. He came to Alberta in 1907, and worked a lot of different places. He came to Girouxville, and homesteaded there, then he decided to move to Kinuso. He went in and homesteaded with Harvey Cline, and when he moved into town to start driving Taxi, he sold his share of the farm to Harvey for \$50.00. He drove Taxi here in Kinuso for at least 35 years. He has moved and is now residing in a nursing home in High



Left to right: Chris Griffin, Della Griffin, Charlie Griffin, and Kate Younger.

Prairie. He met and married Della Green, who was born in Standard, in 1915. They were married in High Prairie. They have four children: Dave, living in Kinuso, Clarence, living in B.C., Donna Ford, living on a farm out of Debolt, and Barbara, who lives in Edmonton. They also have 12 grandchildren.

Charlie Griffin and the "Grizzly Bears"

The following is an article that appeared in the "Star Weekly" of Toronto, January 14th, 1956, written by Hugh M. Halliday.

As this adventure took place in Kinuso and Swan Hill area, we thought it might be interesting to some



Charlie Griffin and his dog team.

of our readers to include the most pertinent facts, in our History of Kinuso.

At the end of October, it appears that Mr. Halliday, accompanied by Al Oeming, who had begun the Alberta Game Farm, were trying to get into Grizzly territory, with the idea of maybe capturing a live one some day.

He tells this, "when Al Oeming and myself left Edmonton, we had already received a report that the ground was bare in the Slave Lake region. But when we alighted from the bus in the Village of Kinuso, at 3:30 A.M., it was snowing and drifting. The only life encountered was Charlie Griffin, genial taxi driver who shouted, "Where do you want to go boys?" "To the Hotel," we replied. "No Hotel in this place! Where do you think you are, New York", said Charlie. "But I'll get you out of the storm if I have to turn you loose in my own attic. I know, I'll take you out to Timber-wolf Labby's place." After a 5 mile drive, Charlie, flashlight in hand, began calling, "Timber-wolf Ted, Timber-wolf, get up!" "Probably he's not home," we suggested. "Yes, he is, the doors are all locked on the inside. Timber-wolf, if you don't get here quick and open up, I'll smash the door down. You are going to have a couple of bear hunters, for

what is left of the night.”

I went bear hunting once, ruminated Charlie, after we were inside. There was a party of us, we figured on half a dozen grizzlies. But, after erecting our tent and looking around, we happened on a set of tracks. We looked at them and thought about the size of the bear that made them, then quickly broke camp. I lost all desire to go grizzly hunting again.



Large Grizzlies, result of a bear hunt in Swan Hills.

A grizzly is not a black bear, Charlie Griffin went on. He doesn't fool. When Stan Ericson and Fred Stevenson were out hunting, they saw what they took to be a black bear crossing the road. Fred had a gun, and Stan serving as a dog, went into a thicket to chase the bear out, and he ran plum into a grizzly. Stan quickly climbed a tree, but the bear got him by the leg and pulled him down. Oh, the bear didn't go after Stan too seriously. His leg was bitten and his face slapped. Stan kept slapping the bear with a piece of brush as he yelled for Fred. When the bear saw Fred coming, she went for him, so he shot her. Her cub was up a nearby tree. Another grizzly stood by disapprovingly observing what went on. Stan went to hospital for treatment and when he got out, he celebrated for 3 or 4 days. The bear must have been having fun, we suggested. "Fun!, you think it was, fun you call it!" exclaimed Charlie. "Unnecessary fun, I would say. But if, you want to know anything about bears, ask Timber-wolf here. He knows more about the bears back there in those hills than anyone else."

Apparently the next day, they had Ted Labby take them into the Swan Hills. For, he says, they had hoped to reach a Ranger's cabin before nightfall, but were forced by fading daylight to spend the night along the way. He goes on to say that though neither of them were hardened to bush travel, they found themselves snuggled down warmly in their eiderdown sleeping bags laid on spruce boughs, with a plastic sheet for extra protection and fell asleep quickly. Sometime during the night he awoke with a strange feeling of being in an unreal world. Opening his eyes and looking up at the snow draped branches of the tree above him, he wondered if he were dreaming or not. Looking at the strange white world, he noticed one of the great elusive bears of the region standing like a black shadow 50 yards away. It was a scene which comes to a person only once in a lifetime, both

fearsome and yet fascinating. He lay as if frozen, expecting the grizzly to comprehend the situation and withdraw from the presence of his traditional enemy. But the wind was in the wrong direction and seemed to confuse the bear, as he came on. He took a step or two, then reared up, dropped down again, came forward a few more paces, and reared up again. Back on four feet, he slowly wandered towards us. As he passed, he stopped, turned his head in our direction, then continued on his way. As he faded into the night, my companion (whom I had thought asleep), and myself raised up to watch as he disappeared from sight. It was a hoped for but unexpected occurrence for we had come into these hills purposely to get better acquainted with these little understood Monarchs of Western Canada's wilderness regions.

We had expected to encounter only tracks, for grizzly bears are known for their wariness, though having the keenest of hearing and scent, but poor eyesight.

By daylight, the tempo of the storm had much increased. We found ourselves in pretty rough country, so we sat and talked. As expected, most of our conversations concerned grizzlies and their behaviour. Ted Labby, trail packer, outfitter, rodeo performer, and trapper, said grizzly dens are so far back in the high country, where snow is deep that they are virtually inaccessible. But he agreed with Reinold Eban in his theory that the grizzly doesn't really hibernate. The female dens up in the winter, but the males remain active except during severe stormy weather.

Many Rangers and veteran bushmen have seen tracks during mid winter in five feet of snow. One member of the Whitecourt Forestry Division, discovered a year old cub denned up alone. It was a very unusual color, a honey blond. Its mother had probably been killed.

This region of large bears lays claim to the all-time record for size. A grizzly shot in May 1953 by Bella Twin, an elderly Indian woman residing some 18 miles from Slave Lake. The skull of this bear (now a museum piece), measures 16 9/16 inches long by 9 14/16 inches wide. Bella was in a bad spot and had to shoot to save herself and she did it with her little old 22 rifle.

We talked of Leo Romeo's experience with a bear. He encountered this large grizzly and it trailed him for the entire winter, placing its big paws in Romeo's snowshoe tracks. So he named him "Old Flannel-foot". Occasionally when Romeo turned around, Old Flannel-foot would be looking at him. The same bear has turned up on several occasions since. A bear answering his description was seen by Jack Naylor of the Whitecourt region. Ed. Matson, a homesteader, reported a large grizzly seen at various times near his home north of Blue Ridge.

Once when he was inspecting one of his traps, he looked up to find the bear looking down on him from the creek bank. This bear was always proved to be inoffensive.

Another tale was told of a grizzly looking in a window of a cabin, occupied by Joe Kamaitis. He was so

frightened he is said to have run 25 miles to Fort Assiniboine, where the Ranger says Joe was so excited he couldn't explain what had happened. Later when we met Joe and asked for an explanation, he replied "big bear, too big! never saw one so big. I was too scared to remember how I got to Fort Assiniboine."

Originally we had planned to tramp through the Swan Hills from Kinuso to Whitecourt, normally an 8 day trek. But the snow kept falling and was reported to be 5 to 6 feet deep in some places in the hills. We thought it might be wise to take along a guide. Bernard Potskin, an Indian, was recommended as he knew the area well. He was willing and ready to go. But Al was thinking of returning to Edmonton to get his jeep, which his neighbor Elmer Lee assured him would plow through more than 3 feet of snow. Elmer had been a coon hunter in his native Tennessee, before coming to Edmonton. He also was a jeep mechanic, and we might need him. He didn't need any persuasion when we asked if he'd like to come bear hunting with us. The three of us spent 5 days tramping about and following trails in search of Western Canada's elusive big bears, so big, they've left their teeth marks on trees which were eight feet from the ground.

The big bears still range over Canada's Western Wilderness, but are becoming progressively scarce as their habitat is encroached on by oil and lumber interests, and forest fires. They also suffer from predator control programmes, trophy hunters, and that human weakness for killing and exterminating.

It would seem that nearly everybody thinks of the grizzly, that massive, amazing, true gentleman of the wilderness, only as a target to be shot at. Inquiries about grizzlies often bring the response, "I killed one on such and such a date." Only rarely do you hear anything like this, "I came face to face with one of the noblest wild animals that ever walked this earth. I felt the majesty of his bearing. He inspired me."

Stan Erricson

The following is a article taken from the Edmonton Journal, Oct. 1954.

Kinuso Man Survives Fight With Grizzly

The story of a 20 minute battle between a bear, described as a 500 pound grizzly, and a unarmed man was told Wednesday at this small settlement about 150 miles northwest of Edmonton.

Stan Erricson, former prizefighter and now a bush-worker, is suffering a badly bitten leg, scratched face and mauled and bruised body as a result of the battle, which ended when a fellow bush worker shot the beast through the eye.

Erricson told friends he feels lucky to be alive, and fears the bear would have killed him and not his companion, Fred Stevenson, veteran Kinuso district trapper heard his cries for help.

The attack occurred about 5:30 p.m. Sunday, while Erricson and Stevenson were at the edge of heavy brush on a sideroad about two miles southwest of Kinuso. They looked up from their work and saw

what they thought were two black bears crossing the road 300 yards away from them.

Entered Bush

Stevenson went for his 30-30 calibre rifle, and the two men agreed to walk into the bush and flush the bears back to the road.

Erricson went in farther than he intended to, and came face to face with two grizzly bears. He was unarmed and the bears showed no sign of leaving, so he climbed a small tree. The tree was small, and one of the grizzlies, a female, grabbed him by the leg and pulled him to the ground, he recounted later. He ward off the bear's first attack with his bare fists, and then grabbed a tree limb to use as a club for the second attack. He swung and hit the bear but the club broke. The bear came again, and Erricson swung with a new club. This routine was repeated several times, and Erricson kept shouting to his partner to come with the gun.

Stevenson was some distance away, and when he heard the shouts could not make out the words distinctly. He said he did not realize the danger Erricson was in.

Ran To The Scene

When he finally realized what was happening, he inserted four shells into his rifle and went on the run. Later he told friends he heard Erricson saying: "Fred... help!" "Grizzlies! Grizzlies! Hurry! They've got my leg."

Stevenson came to within 50 yards of the struggle, when the bear charged toward him. He dodged, and the bear went by. It turned for a second charge. Stevenson swung his rifle into position and fired, shooting the bear in the eye. Stevenson said the bear was rushing toward him so fast it skidded along the ground and finally stopped at his feet. He fired another slug into its head.

Erricson was treated by the district nurse, Miss M. Mitchell, and was advised to see a doctor in case of rabies infection.

Pat Foley, veteran forest ranger in the district, was going to send the bear's head to the provincial laboratory for rabies tests, but the bullet did too much damage. Mr. Foley said it was the first case in his experience of a man surviving a hand-to-hand battle with a grizzly bear.

Erricson, who stands six feet tall and weighs about 200 lbs., formerly did some boxing in Edmonton.

The Klondike Trail

From Edmonton to St. Albert to Riviere Qu'Barre, Lac La Non, Barrhead, Camp Creek, Ft. Assinaboine (established by Peter Pond about 1790) to Timeau and across the Swan Hills to Grouard (originally Lesser Slave Lake — also established by Peter Pond about the same time), then on to Peace River Landing and on toward the Klondike Gold Fields — but never completed. (I would like to make an uneducated guess: that part of the trail between Ft. Assinaboine and Grouard over the Swan Hills was established by the Indians before the whiteman's eyes

beheld it).

This trail was, in my humble opinion, the reason for the early settlement of the areas along and near the Trail. The first whitemen to build a home and reside in the Kinuso area came over the Trail, the house they built is still standing (built at the turn of the century). Later settlers used this Trail to enter this area by following the Swan River down stream into the valley, with its grassy meadows and fertile flood plains to the shores of the Lesser Slave Lake — with wild Red Top hay that grew as tall as a saddle horse. Coming from the south on the Trail, you reach the west side of Deer Mountain (3900 ft. elevation), before you drop down to the Swan River, the scenic view that is available to the human eye is breathtaking, the lake is visible 30 or more miles away on a clear day.

Also coming into the lake area from the south is the Holme's Trail which crossed the Athabasca River downstream from Ft. Assinaboine and joined the Trail of '98 to Timeau settlement and then took a northeasterly direction, eventually coming to (Sawridge) the present town of Slave Lake, then around the east end of the lake, joining the Peace River Trail along the north shore of Lesser Slave Lake — again the scenery is very beautiful. The Peace River Trail came across the Athabasca River at Athabasca Landing and followed the north side of the river to Moose Portage on to Mirror Landing (near the present village of Smith) to the Slave River and followed the north side of the river to Sawridge. To back up a bit; from Edmonton to Athabasca Landing, one followed the Old Landing Trail which left Edmonton in a northeast direction going through what is now Bon Accord, Gibbons (Lily Lake, where there is a lovely camping spot, not far from the Red Barn, where one can go nearly any night of the week for enjoyable barbeques, dancing and good entertainment), then on to Wagh, Bridge Lakes, Tawatinaw and then along the valley — northward to Rochester, Perryvale, Meanook, Colinton and Athabasca. The land routes and the water routes played a big part in the settling of this area.

In the summer of 1973, Rod Roth, from the Manning area, and myself conducted a trail ride from Peace River to Edmonton via the Klondike Trail — 316 miles in 19 days — this was an R.C.M.P. Centennial venture. We were accompanied by two R.C.M.P. from Peace River — picking up two more officers at Ft. Assinaboine, arriving in Edmonton on July 17, in time to join in the Klondike Day's parade through the City with our horses. There were 23 good people in all who went the distance with us; I enjoyed them very much.

Again, in the summer of 1976, I conducted a trail ride from Grouard along the old Peace River Trail to Slave Lake via the north shore of the lake — which took 8 days. The old Trail was nearly impossible in some areas, having to cut trail with an axe through heavy windfall and having to search out the trail in areas where it had burned over and where beavers had flooded large areas, riding in the lake sometimes to get around landslides (in 5 ft. of water) where the

trail had slid into the lake. The weather didn't cooperate at all during this trip and the insects were terrible on man and beast alike. There were 14 good people in the group and all hearty souls.

The summer of 1977, saw us on the Peace Trail again, this time from Slave Lake to Athabasca which took us 7 days. We followed the old #2 highway to Smith — or a point on the west side of the Athabasca River — and then along the river to Moose Portage Settlement and then into the "wilds" on the old trail that followed what was the first telegraph line into the north which ran from Edmonton to Peace River. This route had also been surveyed for a railroad (The Edmonton, Dunvegan and British Columbia Railroad and Telegraph), the railway materialized. The first night we camped at what had been Goodwin's Halfway House or Stopping Place and we rested our stock. The following day we went for a swim in the Tomato Creek, which was very cold, and we spent the second night at this spot — Tomato Creek is a very attractive spot, and we all enjoyed it very much. The following morning we all left in high spirits, only to encounter some of the worst muskegs I have ever experienced. We camped that night on a big sand flat with good meadows for the horses to graze on, good water and huge knarled old pine trees to camp under. The next morning early, we broke camp with about 30 miles to go. We reached Athabasca around 4 o'clock in the afternoon. There were 11 people in the group — some who had been on the previous 2 rides — all good people to ride with.

Labour Day Weekend — 1977, saw us off again from Athabasca to Ft. Edmonton, in the City of Edmonton. This ride lasted 3 days in a cold rain in the entire 100 miles. At the end of which we rode our horses into Ft. Edmonton, accompanied by the Minister of Culture, Horst Schmidt, and the Deputy Mayor of Edmonton, and other dignitaries where we all sat down to a nice supper hosted by the City of Edmonton. Twenty-six people attended this ride.

Again, in 1978, we accomplished the above ride with 57 people in all. It was not really that exciting, as our riding was all done along country roads and back roads, as all the old Athabasca Landing Trail now traverses through farm land — nearly the entire distance.

In all the miles that I have ridden on horseback over these historic old Trails, and the people who have ridden them with me, I have enjoyed both more than I know how to express.

J. Killeen
Kinuso, Alberta

Jack Killeen "Trail Boss Likes Bush Life."

written by Maureen Utley and Jim Legg.

Jack Killeen is a bushman who scorns those who would blaze or otherwise mark a trail.

A professional outfitter and guide from Kinuso, Mr. Killeen said those who should be in the bush don't need to blaze and those who do mark trails should stay home.

Mr. Killeen, 48, was trail boss for the Athabasca Landing Trail expedition sponsored by Trail North Foundation during the Labor Day week-end.

"I like the bush," he said. "I've spent most of my life in the bush. To me, it's a challenge — establishing and finding trails.

Mr. Killeen is one bushman who doesn't shun people, and throughout the journey he rode his way from the front of the line to the back, conversing with other riders.

"I just like people. I like talking to people — a word here and a word there." In 1964, he outfitted for a government survey to gain experience as a professional guide and outfitter.

In 1973, he guided the R.C.M.P., on their Centennial expedition through the Swan Hills and along the Klondike Trail.

Last year, he was trail boss for the Midnight Twilight Tourist Association's eight-day ride from Grouard to Slave Lake. This summer he guided an expedition from Slave Lake to Athabasca via the old Edmonton and British Columbia and Dunvagen telegraph trail line.

Mr. Killeen has seen a police officer land in mud and reeds after being thrown over the head of a horse. He's also had a bear follow him into camp to share a warm tent. He's a man who knows how to enjoy life, yet he's also a hard worker.

He was always the last to sit down to a meal on the trip, preferring, instead to make sure that the horses were given proper care, the truck unloaded and the camp set up. Athabasca Mayor Jack Sturges said of the trail boss, "He thinks of the riders first, then the horses and himself last."

Born in Westlock, Mr. Killeen rode to school as a six-year-old boy, even in temperature of 50 degrees below zero. He also began entering rodeos as a youngster and won first prize in a rodeo event when he was 13.

All of his horses are range bred and raised. "Some of my horses have never been inside a barn," he said.

Mr. Killeen lives on a ranch — two sections of primarily hay and grazing land. Mr. Killeen's wife Norma and two of their three sons Randy, 18, and Vaughn, 14, accompanied him on the trip.

Mrs. Killeen has a contagious sense of humor and can hold her own against the men in the family. One night, when the women had gone to sleep, she threatened to take over as trail boss, "if the men didn't pack it in."

Mr. Killeen would like to see the Athabasca Landing Trail and other similar trails designated as historic trails. He said government officials who have the power to do this "do a lot of verbal support but they don't put their money where their mouth is."

The History of Kinuso Rodeo

(Assembled and Written by Dave Labby)

The first rodeo or stampede held in Kinuso was on the east side of town about where the Catholic Church now stands, around 1919 or 1920. There were no corrals or chutes. The horse was snubbed up

against a post or another horse then turned loose in a large open area where horse and rider were on their own until a pickup rider picked up the rider and caught the horse. This rodeo, held on July 1st, was won by Clarence Shoop, who won the \$3.00 in prize money that had been collected.

The rodeo was held here for a few years then moved to the Reservation on the west side of town. For the first couple of years there was one shotgun chute but no corral. Then Rosco Ray held a rodeo in which a race track with a rail fence was built around a single shotgun chute with a holding pen. In those days the horse was ridden until it stopped bucking. A lot depended on the pickup riders as they not only had to pick up the rider, but also catch the horse and remove the saddle or rigging. Some of the pickup riders at this time were Dolphus Davis and Fred and Bill Labby. Eunice Smith, a coloured cowboy who did a lot of the announcing from horseback with a megaphone, was also a pickup rider for some of these rodeos.



Ted Labby on "Calamity Jane". Dolphus Davis pick-up-rider. Kinuso, Alberta — 1931.

The rodeo stock for the Kinuso Rodeo was usually horses rounded up off the lakeshore where a lot of people let their horses run loose. Some of the bucking horses were saddle horses or work horses. Often people would come to the rodeo, pull the harness off their horse and put it in the chutes. They usually started rounding up stock a week before the stampede as there were just bush trails which made things pretty difficult to drive a bunch of wild horses and cattle. Cattle and horses were also driven down from the valley.

In 1930 Lee Farris, The Canada Kid, brought in a bunch of horses and held a rodeo for which a corral with two chutes was built. Lee was raised in Swan Valley by his stepfather, John Swanson. He lived there until he started riding. Travelling all over Canada and the United States in 1929 he won the Canadian Championship. That same year he had an eye hooked out by a Texas Loghorn.

Life for the rodeo cowboy was not only tough, but the money wasn't much either. In 1931 Ted Labby took home \$2.00 winning first in the saddle bronc, the bareback and the steer riding in Kinuso.

In these early days riders who followed the circuit, like Ted Labby and Frank Posegate, did a lot of their travelling by railroad. These cowboys had to "hobo" from one rodeo to the next. Frank Posegate won 1st



Ted Labby — Bareback riding in Kinuso. Dolphus Davis — Pick-up-man. Mr. Smith — announcing. 1931.

in the day money for the bareback event in Calgary in 1928 and was one of the top cowboys to come out of the Kinuso area.

Kinuso's rodeo was held on the reservation for quite a few years. Somewhere between 1952 and 1955 interest in rodeos died out and ball games took over. There were no rodeos in Kinuso until 1965 and 1966 when the rodeo was held on the south side of town with McDonald Bros. supplying the stock. It was in the 1965 rodeo that Frank Posegate broke his leg in the wild horse race.

In 1967 the rodeo grounds were moved to Spruce Point Park and are still held there every year on the July 1st weekend. The Spruce Point Park Rodeo grounds were built in 1967 by the people of Kinuso and Faust as a Centennial project. It is a beautiful site located along the shore of Lesser Slave Lake.

There have been some interesting rides made at Spruce Point Park. Ray (Butch) Doerksen, made a beautiful saddle bronc ride that would certainly have won 1st prize but was disqualified because he fanned the horse with his hat in the old time style of riding. He did this on bet for a bottle of whiskey. Another ride well remembered was one made by Denny Sloan who had a back cinch break which allowed the saddle to slide up on the horses neck. Denny still managed to make the whistle before falling off.



Dave Labby — riding bareback (Jack-of-Diamonds). Taking 3rd at Spruce Point Park.

In 1977 the rodeo grounds were disced up and made ready for the rodeo on the 1st of July. Of course, it rained and the rodeo was postponed for a few days. When the sun finally shone again, determined to have the rodeo, things went ahead even though there was still a foot of mud in the arena. Randy Cuthbert had a horse fall and roll on him squashing him almost out of sight. He got up, unhurt, covered with mud looking very much like he just stepped out of a John Wayne movie. That same year I, Dave Labby, was bucked off a bareback horse, did a complete somersault in the air and landed on my back — yes — in the mud. The next week there I was, still in mid-air, on the front page of a local paper.



Dave Labby winning 2nd in bareback at Spruce Point — 1977.

One other outstanding event that happened at a Spruce Point Park Rodeo was in the wild horse race. A horse got away from a team of three men, the rope wrapped around the neck of one of the cowboys and drug him around the arena. He managed to free himself unhurt except for scrapes, scratches and a rope burn.

The Spruce Point Park Rodeo is looked forward to by people of all ages. There are kids buying cowboy hats and getting dressed up for the big day every year. For them, besides the Little Britches Rodeo events, there is usually a calf scramble or chicken scramble. Jack Killeen and James Erickson, both former rodeo cowboys, donate bucking horses and help run the Little Britches events.

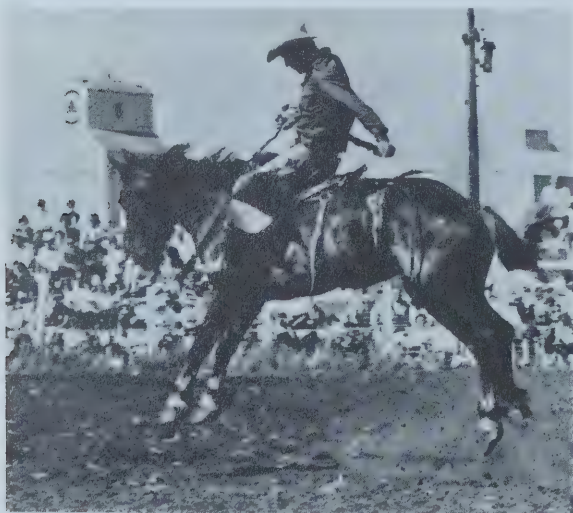
There is usually a parade or pancake breakfast to draw out the crowd and most people are still around for the outdoor dance. On the final evening everyone waits till dark to take in the fireworks display.

There have been many riders and still are many riders who come from the Kinuso area; some who have rode in amateur and pro rodeos all over the country and some who have rode only in the local shows. Some have rode for a year or two and some have been riding for years and are still riding.

As just about everyone has been involved at one time or another it would be very difficult to mention every person who has helped put on rodeos in Kinuso. Weather permitting, Kinuso has always held a rodeo on the July 1st holiday and so far there has always been cowboys and cowgirls for the show. Hopefully there will always be a rodeo in Kinuso.

Kinuso's Rodeos

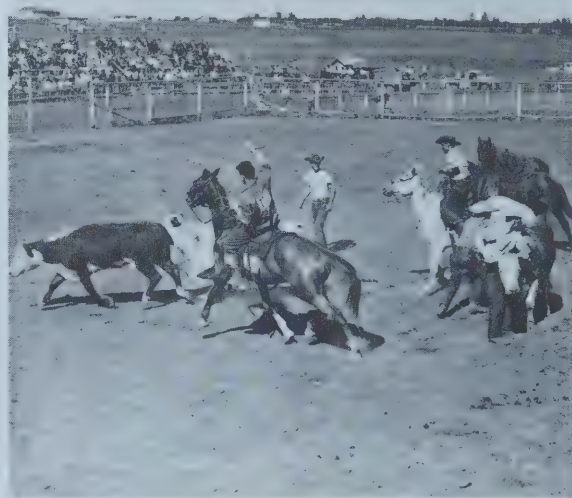
As near as I can recall, from hearing the oldtimers talk of Kinuso's Rodeos, they started around 1919 or 1920, and they were held about where the present Catholic church stands on the east side of the village. Clarence Shoop was the first saddle bronc rider to win prize money — a total sum of \$3.00 — a collection gathered in a hat. This site was used for a few years and then moved to the west side of town on the Indian Reserve, where a single shotgun chute was built and used for sometime; until 1928 or 1929, when Lee Ferris (The Canada Kid, who won fame as a bullrider in one of those years when he had his eye gouged out by a Texas longhorned steer and finished his ride in that condition) came to Kinuso with a herd of horses from Southern Alberta. At this time another corral was built and another chute was added. These corrals were used until 1939, when a group of young fellows in the community re-built the corrals and added more chutes. These corrals were used until about 1955. At about this time rodeo in the district died for a few years, over a dispute involving a charge at the gates to get into the grounds and other poorly timed events. The Swan River Indian Band had donated the spots grounds for a number of years (gratis) which had an open air dance hall, refreshment booths, ball diamonds and a half-mile race track, which circled the entire sports grounds including the rodeo arena. There was always a large Indian encampment on the west side of the grounds, which really used to excite the school students for the last 4 or 5 days of June, as the Indian people from up to 50 miles away and farther used to start arriving for the Dominion Day celebration, usually held July 1, 2, and 3.



Jackie Killeen of Kinuso, Alberta riding a bucking horse — 1970.

Prize money in all the contests were not large, but people did enjoy themselves. All prize monies were donated by the businessmen and a number of individuals in the community. As I recall, J. C. Hunt, (The Patriarch of all the Hunts in this area), really got involved in this. Martin Gallagher and my father,

Jack Killeen, judged the rodeo events for a good number of years; until I started to compete with the men at the age of 13 years. When I won a third prize in the bareback bronc event and collected \$4.00 and, therefore, was convinced that I was the greatest; my father quit judging. Martin Gallagher often told me of the time he and my father were judging the steer riding event. They were using Mons Eckinger's 3 year old Aberdeen Angus steers (they were snakey) when one of these steers charged my father. He lost his judging cards in the scramble for the fence — and at the same time had had a bad case of diarrhea and also had to change his underclothes!



Jack Killeen of Kinuso, Alberta on ground wearing short sleeved T-shirt.

The rodeos got a weak start again in 1963 and 1964, when a small arena was built at the south end of town, in what is now the town's recreation grounds. Then in 1965 and 1966, the arena was expanded and a full-fledged rodeo was held for two years on the site. In 1967, the arena was moved to Spruce Point Park, (a beautiful site). The rodeo that year was a near failure. In 1968, 1969 and 1970, we were approved by the F.C.A. (Foothills Cowboys Association) and stock was brought in from the southern part of Alberta, (some of which had qualified and gone to the National Finals Rodeo in Oklahoma City, U.S.A. on different occasions). The stock was very good and also a lot of good amateur cowboys attended — some have gone on to Canadian Championships and World ratings. In 1978, the rodeo was again a good one, with stock being supplied by Cox Rodeos from High Prairie, Alberta. Their stock was very good and is improving constantly, and so will our local rodeo if concerned individuals in the community hang in there.

There is no way in which I could name all those people who gave of their time and themselves to further rodeo in the community, but I would like to tip my hat to them all. It's a good, clean, fresh sport and breeds a healthy respect for competition, so don't let it slip . . . Hang in there . . .



Fred Tanghe riding in Kinuso, Alberta.



Rosey Wapaw riding bucking horse at Kinuso Sports — 1920's.



James Erricson riding a bucking horse.



Kinuso Rodeo. Pat Campiou — riding bareback. Dolphus Davis — pick-up-rider.



Dennis Sloan riding saddle bronc, at James Erricson's — 1962.



James Erricson. Taken at Labby's, Kinuso, Alberta — 1946.



Jim Sheldon riding a bull at Spruce Point Park — 1977.



Kinuso Rodeo — 1969. Placing 1st in wild horse race: Allen Giroux, Dennis Posegate, and Jim Sheldon.



Wilfred Oulette winning horse race at Spruce Point Park.



Dennis Sloan "hitting the dust" at James Erricson's — 1962.

Ray Doerksen (Butch)

(As told by Dea Doerksen)

Ray came to Kinuso in 1964 from Main Centre, Saskatchewan to work with his brother Gerald.

Both Butch and his brother, took an active interest in the Kinuso Rodeo. With a lot of help and



Ray Doerksen winning Saddle Bronc Event.



Donna Sloan, Rodeo Queen — 1966.



Frank Posegate riding a bucking horse.

encouragement from James Erickson, Jack Killeen and Dave Griffin, Butch decided to take riding and rodeo more seriously. Butch travelled to California and then to Montana to follow the PRCA and ACMRCA circuits — to bite some of the U.S. dust. Always using Kinuso as his "hail from" he was often asked "well, where exactly is Kinuso?"



Interested in horses at an early age. Ray Doerksen — age 5 yrs. Main Centre, Saskatchewan.

He returned to Kinuso with calluses (one on each side), a peculiar way of speaking and a nickname "the Senator". Butch had tried them all — Bulls, Bares and

Broncs, but narrowed his rodeoing to the classic saddle bronc event. Working various circuits around B.C., Alberta and Saskatchewan, and Manitoba, he came close to the top in the amateur bronc standings.

Winning the saddle bronc and all-round cowboy buckles at the Lundbreck Cowly Rodeo was a highlight of his career.

In 1968 Kinuso had its rodeo FCA approved. Cowboys from all over Alberta, good rodeo stock, chariot races, generous trophy donor, great weather and beautiful scenery, made it one of the best rodeos in Alberta.



The Wild Horse Race — Dave Griffin, Dennis Sloan and Ray Doerksen. 1976.

Butch has turned his interests to the wild horse race and calf roping events. Teamed up with Dennis Sloan and Dave Griffin in the Wild Horse Race Event, they were lucky to win saddles at "Bust Out



Each winning a saddle at the Bust Out Wild Horse Race Event in Spruce Grove, Alberta.

'76" in Spruce Grove, Alberta.

Butch keeps his summers busy taking on traffic directing duties of Arena Director and judging amateur rodeos. Since he can't leave one horsey stone unturned, he's training horses and trying his luck in quarter horse racing.

Of course, he still thinks he can "fan" a tough bronc in the Spruce Point Park mud.

Married to Deanna Sheldon, he now lives with his wife and two boys, Cody and Kyle, just out of Edmonton near Alberta Beach.

I Remember

The Poole's, Christmas 1915

by Vera McLaughlin

As I sit and watch the preparations for the coming Christmas festivities in this year 1978, I'm reminded of a certain Christmas many, many, years ago. That was in 1915 when I was five years old.

My mother and dad became friendly with some people whose name was Poole. They had pioneered from Edmonton by ox-team over the ice and snow. They took the route from Edmonton to Athabasca, Sawridge and along the south shore of Lesser Slave Lake and on to Swan River; this was before the railroad came through.

The Poole's took a homestead a mile and a half west of the town of Kinuso; this land later became the Cail place and later still the Jimmie Churchill farm.

At this time there were very few children in the country and as they had a daughter, Wanda, who was close to my age, we were invited to their place to spend Christmas.

On Christmas morning we had to get up very early so I could see what Santa had given me, and to be able to get ready to make our trip; it seemed like a journey to me, being so little. I remember my mother making us a hearty breakfast, while my dad went outside to feed and prepare the horses, and get the sleigh ready. It seemed to take hours and I suppose it did, getting ready to go anywhere, even if only a mile and a half. After breakfast, Dad put hay in the sleigh box and covered it with several blankets, then put a couple of rocks in that had been heated in the oven, inside the blankets. We then bundled into the sleigh, were on our way at last, as warm as toast. The road to the Poole's place was very narrow, just room for a team of horses and sleigh to pass. The trees and bushes were so close along the sides of the road that we were covered in hoar frost from the branches slapping against the sleigh as we drove along. I must not forget about the ringing of the bells on the horses harness. The jingling of the bells mingled with our laughter as we trotted along. It was Christmas and we were very happy.

When we arrived, the Poole's welcomed us with open arms and shouts of "Happy Christmas", "Merry Christmas". Mother and I were hurried in to the house by the fire while my dad and Mr. Poole took care of the horses because we would spend all day and part of the evening there.

The table was set with a beautiful white linen tablecloth and pieces of fancy china all brought from their previous life in the city. On the stove in a large pot there were two lovely rabbits bubbling and cooking, which Mr. Poole had caught the day before for our Christmas dinner. Carrots and onions and dumplings were added and this we ate mashed potatoes, canned peas, homemade bread, homemade ice cream and fruit cake and a very large pitcher of ice cold milk. The ice cream stands in my mind very clearly as I'd never eaten ice cream before and Mrs. Poole laughed at us girls and told us to put it on the stove to warm.

We spent the day visiting, listening to an old gramophone with flat records, playing cards (rummy) and eating.

Kinuso and Swan River District Fairs

by Doreen Hunt

It is a pleasure to hold horticultural fairs in our area. Due to the severe winters and short summers, we are proud to take our exhibits in and display them for competitions.

They have been held since the late forties when the Women's Institute organized them. In later years the Swan Valley Ladies organized the fairs held.

In the seventies the Agriculture Society was formed. Up to this year, 1979, it will be the Agriculture Society's fourth annual fair.



School Fair — 1931-32.

Fairs of Kinuso and Swan River District

by Alyce Posegate

Horticultural Shows are a vital part of most communities and Kinuso and Swan River District Fairs are a good example. The competition is keen and the exhibits improve year by year.

These fairs were begun around 1949 or 1950 by the Women's Institute. In later years the Swan Valley Ladies organized the fairs. In the 70's the Agriculture Society was formed and since then they have been responsible for the Fairs. This year of 1979 will be the fourth one and we look forward to this one, as it will be held in the new complex building where there will be more room for various displays.

Over the years the sponsors have tried to make the

Fair more interesting by showing films on subjects pertaining to flower growing, experimental farming etc. and have had many guest speakers for the occasions.

In the last few years, a parade has been held to further spark interest and many and varied are the entries in that. Beautiful floats and single entries.

One year Michelle Cundal wore a costume made entirely of live flowers with her bicycle likewise decorated and won first prize in the children's section. Another year her brother Robbie won a prize for his costume made entirely of vegetables. One year Mrs. Glennie Hunt wore an interesting costume which won a prize. Her hat was a large rhubarb leaf decorated with carrot circles. She wore a necklace of small beets. Her skirt was hung with vines of peas and decorated with other good things from her garden. She is a Senior Citizen so you can see that all the cute ideas do not come from the young people alone.

In the year 1956, there were over 500 entries and since then the participants and entries have grown accordingly. In the early years of the fairs, the W.I. arranged for Mrs. Mary Samuelson to attend Fairview College to learn the fine art of judging. She attended courses for 2 years so is a very competent judge in these matters. Other judges are imported too. The prizes are donated by local businessmen and farmers. Over the years, handicrafts, baking and preserving have been added as part of the fair.

It is impossible to give a list of names of the winners over the years as they are too numerous and the list would not be complete as no records are kept and some names might be inadvertently left out. So we just express our thanks to those folks who have made the fairs so colorful and successful since its beginning.

The following is taken from a news clipping of the flower show held in 1956.

Kinuso Flower Show Boasts 500 Entries

KINUSO — The seventh flower, vegetable and grain show was held Aug. 24, and sponsored by Kinuso Women's Institute and Kinuso Branch of the Canadian Legion, was the largest in the show's history with 50 entrants and 500 entries.

Mrs. Eddy Dow, W. I. president, very ably conducted the program of the evening with 150 people present.

Mayor McLaughlin opened the show and expressed hope that the show would continue to grow to such an extent that the curling rink would be needed for the display.

Vin Rice showed films consisting of "Maple Leaves," "Potato Growing in New Brunswick," and "Mickey Mouse" on the Legion projector.

Betty Mitchell, district home economist, Mr. Erwin, district weed inspector and teacher of Fairview School of Agriculture, Bob Turner of High Prairie, and Pete Elco, veteran's agricultural supervisor, successfully judged the show and were guest speakers of the evening.

Chester Bajer, who took over the grain section for the Legion, displayed the grain samples and pre-

sented two large bronze cups to the winners with most points. Doug McLaughlin won one cup for most points of grain, and George Sheldon won the other for most points of grasses.

Mrs. Dow, W. I. president, presented Bobby Stevenson with a \$25.00 scholarship, given by the Kinuso Women's Institute for the highest marks made this year in grade IX in Kinuso. Bobby earned this award with four honors and four A's.

After the show, pie and coffee was served, while contestants, judges and friends viewed the displays and mingled in good fellowship to make the evening a success.



Mrs. Doris Kusch with her trophy from the Agricultural Fair — 1977.

A silver cup was given by William Card, I. H. dealer, for the person winning most points in the flower and vegetable section. A flower basket was given by B. E. Boisvert for most points in flowers and a water set was given by Karpa Bros. for most points in vegetables. The W. I. would like to thank all those who donated prizes.

The following is a list of prize winners:

Total points — 1. Mary Samuelson with 22 points; 2. Mrs. Whitecotton and Annie Wasylyk, tied with 21 points.

Flowers — 1. Mary Samuelson with 22 points. 2. Mrs. Whitecotton with 20 points.

Vegetables — 1. Annie Wasylyk with 21 points. 2. Mrs. Harry Hunt-11.

Canning — 1. Mrs. Tanasuik; 2. Mrs. R. Jordan.

House Plants — Flowering house plants, 1. Mrs. Fred Sheldon; 2. Hester Churchill.

Foliage house plant; 1. Mrs. Bonnie Roe; 2. Hester Churchill.

Begonia house plant; 1. Mrs. Roffey; 2. Helen Spervnvk.

Floral Arrangement — 1. Mrs. Doris Boisvert; 2. Mrs. E. Dow.

Children's Wild Flowers — 1. Tom Gillett; 2. Nellie McLaughlin.

Children's caricatures — 1. David Klyne; 2. Jane Sloan.

Centennial Banquet Recent Kinuso Event

taken from The Record-Gazette
August 9, 1967

Kinuso — Friday evening, July 21, the various organizations of Kinuso and surrounding communities were hosts at a Centennial Banquet held in the Legion Hall.

A collection of antique articles was on display during the afternoon and again in the evening.

Supper was served at 7 o'clock to approximately 85 guests seated at a long table while many more enjoyed the buffet style supper.



Eva and Finny Hill holding cake she made for Centennial Banquet.

Mr. Schurter of Slave Lake, who came to this vicinity in 1910 with the telegraph line survey, was master of ceremonies. The blessing was given by Loren Cornell.

After toasts were given to the early settlers and their families, a special toast was given by Ed Quinn to Jesse Sloan as this chosen date marked the sixtieth anniversary of Mr. Sloan's arrival in this locality. Although he did not remain more than a few days, he was impressed with the location and felt satisfied with

what he had found so returned to his former home in North Dakota to harvest his crop there and make preparations to bring his family here in the spring of 1908.

He was accompanied by Mrs. Sloan, three children: Hercel, who with his family still remain on the original homestead; Cecelia (Mrs. Thomas Denison) of North Star, and Harold (deceased); also Mrs. Sloan's parents (Mr. and Mrs. George Cupps), Glen-nie Cupps (Mrs. Harry Hunt) and a nephew, Howard Posey of Kinuso. Mr. Sloan responded to the toast with a very interesting account of the early days and various experiences.

Mr. and Mrs. T. W. Hill, now residng in Courtenay, B.C., who arrived and settled in this district in 1907, a few days later than Mr. Sloan returned here for the occasion and also gave an interesting response to the toast to the early settlers.

A former school teacher here, Albert B. Wetter, who taught in the Swan River School District from 1924-26, now holding office in the Dept. of Education in Edmonton, was also in attendance. He gave a very interesting account of the early days of teaching in the Valley. Several of his former students were in attendance at the banquet. Frank Brown of Athabasca, was one of them.

Mr. and Mrs. George Kerle of Kirkland, Oregon, after a few delaying experiences in their trip showed the dauntless stamina of pioneers and arrived in Kinuso in time for supper, tired, but still smiling and in good spirits.

Mrs. Kerle (formerly Miss Ethel Hunt) came here in 1907 while Mr. Kerle arrived in 1913.

Other visitors home for the occasion were — Mrs. Dora Harrison of Pleasant View Lodge, High Prairie; Mr. and Mrs. Bill Wilson (Agnes Foley) of Dunstable, Alberta; T. H. Sloan of Senior Citizens Home in Athabasca; Mrs. Beatrice (Sloan) Adair and daughter Wendy of Black Diamond, Alta; Mr. and Mrs. Harry Wilton of Victoria, B.C.; Mrs. Leo Hamson (Ruth Cornell) of High Prairie; Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Mathieson (Irene Lillo) of Chicago, Illinois, U.S.A.

After a bit of visiting and hand shaking, an old-time dance was enjoyed by all with music by Larry Sands Orchestra of Swan Hills.

Flooding of the Swan River

The Swan River heads in the Swan Hills, with hundreds of smaller tributaries running into it as it flows north and drains into Lesser Slave Lake.

Since the first settlers arrived in Swan Valley high water time has been a concern, this period being usually in the month of June when the last of spring run off occurs. Also with a lot of rain during this time, there is the danger of flooding of the Swan River. During the high water period in 1919, Wilber Sloan was drowned while trying to cross the Swan with a team of horses — thus prompting the building of the first bridge over the Swan River in 1920.

The first flood in the Valley occurred in 1930, when along with spring runoff, it rained 3 or 4 days and nights. On Friday, June 13, flooding occurred,



Flood in Kinuso in early days.

Raye and Marie Sloan were living in a bend on the river bank. When the flood hit, they left home. By wading along the fence line holding onto the wire,



1930 Flood of Kinuso.

they made their way to Mike McNamara's to wait out the flood. At the flood's peak there was five feet of water in their house, and thousands of board feet of lumber that was piled on the river bank was swept away by flood water. Later part of this lumber was salvaged by Raye, Marie and Harold Sloan as it was

washed ashore at Martin River across the lake, it was eventually sold to a fellow going into business in the old town of Slave Lake.



Notice the track being washed out. The trains were held up for days.

The bridge was washed away in this flood and not replaced until 1931.



Main street in Kinuso flooding in 1934.

Another flood occurred in 1935 with less damage to property, but flooding several basements in Kinuso town. One incidence in Kinuso was when Hannah Thompson, not realizing the water had come up in her house during the night, swung her feet out of bed, and upon touching the floor she was ankle deep in flood water.

In the early 1950's the big oil boom hit the Swan Hills resulting in the removal of acres of forest cover as roads were built to accommodate the oil rush. This is felt to be a direct result in an increase in the flooding of the Swan River — in that it takes much less rain now to create a flood and erosion of the banks has also increased.

By 1961, every one had become a bit complacent, thinking back to 1930-35 it was hard to remember this peaceful river flowing through their farms had ever caused so much destruction, but the worst was yet to come: after approximately six or more inches of rain in five days the last week in June, 1961 a flood was well on its way.

June 30th, flooding occurred at Swan Ranger Station south of Kinuso. Raymond Sloan tried to alert people to the coming flood, but everyone was preparing for the first of July sports and his warnings fell on



1934 Flood showing Pool Hall and Store.



Main street in Kinuso in front of Post Office July 1st 1961.



Kinuso Flood showing water tank and Tank House.

deaf ears. As did the warnings from Denny and Ken Sloan who later that night tried to return to their homes in the Valley from town, they met the flood water at Hunts and had to turn back to town. Upon telling the people of the coming flood the smiles came to their faces and the reply was "Oh yeah, a flood".

At approximately midnight the flood crested in the Valley 3 feet 10 inches higher than the 1930 flood and knocking out electricity.

Jesse Sloan and sons Hercel and Lawrence lost forty head of yearlings, spring calves and a registered Herford bull as they were swept away in the flood waters. Further down river Frank Sound lost 25 or 30 head, which mostly consisted of spring calves, in the flood. At day break the water was receding in the south end of the Valley but further down stream it was yet to crest.



Swan Valley bridge after flood of 1961 with cow caught in end.

Ted and Virgie Cuthbert who live on the Eula Creek were keeping a close watch on the rising creek when they heard a roar in the distance and they knew the Swan River a mile away had left its banks and was headed their way, bringing with it silt, roots and other trash. Their cows had already lit out for higher ground when the creek had flooded the barn yard. The water continued to rise around their house and pour into the cellar and soon the cellar door started to float. Their only contact with the outside world was by two-way radio, (Ted was working for the Forestry at the time). He could not reach any of the local Forestry people but did get an answer from Clifford Sloan at the Salt Prairie Tower, imagine their relief when they heard the water was dropping upstream.

Kinuso's Mayor at the time, Vin Rice, declared an emergency by 5 p.m. and the school was used as an emergency headquarters for families brought in from the district, at one point 56 people were billeted there.



Flood 1961.

About 80 percent of the village's 120 homes were flooded to some degree. There was no particular food problem as Kinuso stores had laid in big stocks for July 1-2 sports.

Bud Krinbill and Harry Hunt decided to start out with a boat and see how close to town they could get. Travelling down the old Valley road they crossed the Rice farm, over fences to Joe Stones and north into Kinuso right up to Boisvert's store which is now the Royal Bank building. No navigation problems as there was plenty of water.

In 1971, on July 3rd after 3 inches of rain in 24 hours the river was rising 12 inches per hour and



Flood covering Highway #2 from Marvin Lillo's to Fred Prichuk's in 1975.



Flood — Mike Prichuk's farm on Eula Creek, 1961.

everyone was preparing for yet another flood. At 3 a.m. July 4th, fields in the river bends were covered with water. Ten hours later the flood crested in the village of Kinuso, flooding basements. Highway two was closed when water overflowed the east approach to the Swan bridge a mile and a half east of Kinuso.

The night's closest brush with tragedy occurred when workers at the bridge watched helplessly as a car was washed off the road, the four occupants were able to scramble out of the car windows to safety on the roof and were eventually picked up by motor boat. "I never want a close call like that again" said driver Ron Gunderson of Breton, "I can't swim". The water had also washed away the grade on the Northern Alberta railroad. Killeens and Beaupres were brought out by helicopter from their farms along the river north of Kinuso. Kinuso and surrounding area was without telephone service from early a.m. July 5th to July 10th. In 1975 high water caused erosion and washed out small bridges, Alberta Disaster Services helped repair this damage with a direct payment to farmers and ranchers for labour involved. This high water also prompted the decision to dyke Kinuso village, and work has already begun on this project and completion is planned for 1979.

In 1978 the Alberta Government announced a stabilization project for Lesser Slave Lake, this will consist of the building of a major diversion channel approximately 5.5 miles long, built north of the mouth of the Lesser Slave River, then flowing into the river at a point down stream. This will not help



1961 Flood showing Elevator.

with the flooding of the Swan River but in time may lower the lake level and some of the farm land that has been under water north of Kinuso due to the high lake level, will once again be farmed.



Flood — Jim Sheldon's farm in 1975.

History of Prichuk Hill

by Scott Stern

Prichuk Hill was named after Mr. Fred Prichuk. Who moved to this area in February of 1926, with a milk cow and a team of horses named Charlie and Prince. Mr. Prichuk and his wife set up their home in the vicinity of the hill. At the time the road went more to the south and the descent of the hill was at a 50 degree angle. At the crest of the hill was a large mud hole. Further down the hill, closer to the middle, they had to lay pieces of timber, known as corduroy, due to a natural spring that was under the road.

Mr. Prichuk was the only one that had a team of horses that were strong enough to pull out people that were stranded. Often, Prichuks was the stopping place for travellers on their way to the Peace River Country. The board and room was free, only what they could pay.

One day in 1929, there were sixteen cars that had travelled from Slave Lake and all had the misfortune of landing in the mud hole. Mr. Prichuk was called to

their assistance. He was able to get them all out by nightfall. A hat was passed around in return for his help, and the sum totalled \$12.00.

Since then that hill has been known to all truckers, travellers, and locals as Prichuk Hill.

Mrs. Prichuk died in Oct. of 1942 and Mr. Prichuk retired in 1966 and died in 1972. Both his daughter and son live in Kinuso.

Scott Stern is the youngest grandson of Mr. Prichuk and was one of the students responsible for a hill being named after him.

The following is a letter wrote to the local paper from the teacher who's class decided on this project.

Dear Sir,

I read with great interest your article "Province gives local sites official names." The name Prichuk Hill was put forward in a proposal by my grade 8 class in Kinuso.

As a class, we had been studying topographic maps. During one class I explained how various places got their names and how physical features could still be named. The class was immediately interested and wanted to write up a proposal for Prichuk Hill. In their proposal to Alberta Culture they included the following: location of the hill (longitude and latitude), a map with the hill's location, a cross-section of the hill, and a history explaining how the hill received its name. The proposal was submitted at the beginning of February.

In particular, three students deserve special mention. Scott Stern was able to find out many of the facts in the history of the hill. Anna Sims and Laura Matin worked at putting the final proposal together so it could be submitted to the government.

As a group, I think the class should be congratulated for their work on this proposal and for their interest in preserving some of the history of their local region by having the name of the hill officially recognized.

Yours sincerely,
David W. Radcliffe

The Prichuk Hill

The following was inserted by youngest grandson Scott Stern, grade eight student 1978, at the age of 13 years.

"Prichuk Hill," was named after Mr. Fred Prichuk, who moved to this area in February of 1926, with a milk cow and a team of horses named Charlie and Prince. Mr. Prichuk and his wife set up their home in the vicinity of the hill. At that time the crest of the hill there was a large mud hole. Further down the hill, closer to the middle, they had to lay pieces of timber known as corduroy due to natural springs that were under the road.

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Scott Stern.

Christmas Cheer

by C. J. Schurter

I have often been asked how people in the early days in this northern area sixty years ago were able to buy Christmas Cheer.

While a good many depended on locally made moonshine manufactured in various secret hideouts, not known to police, and others bought from professional bootleggers, and where such professionals got it was also a secret.

Fifty years ago, Alberta was still a Prohibition province which came into effect during the early part of the First World War and stayed in effect until the 1923 plebiscite when it was thrown aside.

During the prohibition period, the purchase of any form of liquor could only be obtained through a doctor's prescription and limited at that. You had to be satisfied in convincing the doctor that little touch of alcohol was strictly required. The prescription always stated as to the amount that could be used at the time, depending of course, on your ailment.

By 1920, this became abused all over the province. The prescription was raised from a half ounce mixed with the same amount of water three times a day, to six ounces with or without water three times a day or oftener if you wished.

Doctors never again, or very seldom, bothered with your so-called ailment, and all you had to do is pay him two dollars for the little slip of paper. Then

go to the nearest drug store and buy the "medicine" you required which for a while was mostly brandy, gin, and rum. Some drug stores, one in particular, in a northern frontier centre charged an extra dollar as a tip to the doctor who wrote out the prescription for his kindness to direct the customer to his store. It was soon found out that when the prescription was raised from a half a ounce to 6 ounces that there was monkey-business going on and the druggist had been adding water.

This naturally increased sales and the purchaser had to buy more prescriptions and in this particular case, the doctor owned half an interest in the drugstore.

This got to be applied all over Alberta (more so in the larger centres of Edmonton and Calgary), and do you know, when open house was declared through the 1923 plebiscite, this bonanza died a natural death. Even the moonshiners and bootleggers had to go out of business.

Kinuso Honors Pioneer Settlers In 1955

The Golden Jubilee Supper was held September 1st, 1955 in the Kinuso community curling rink, in honor of the Alberta Jubilee, and Senior Citizens in Kinuso before October, 1914. There were 323 who signed the register.

Fifty-three guests were seated at the table which was tastefully decorated, and centred by a Jubilee Cake, donated by Mr. and Mrs. Hill.

Charlie Schurter was Master of Ceremonies, and welcomed the guests. Father La Chance said Grace, and every-one partook of a delicious supper.

Mr. Schurter called on several of the old timers who told a few stories of their experiences in the early days.

B. E. Boisvert loaned his camera to Bob Jordon, and a number of movies were taken.

Doug McLaughlin spoke a few words of thanks to the Jubilee committee, Mrs. Leila Brown and Mrs. Jean Quinn.

Mr. Schurter presented scrolls to the following: — F. W. Hill, George Cornell, Tom Sandman, Joe Cyre, Ed. Quinn, B. E. Boisvert, Aylmer Jackson, and a picture was taken.

H. W. Walker, Mrs. Curtis, Fred Smith, Mrs. Martha Jackson, and Owen Brown, were unable to attend.

Following the supper a dance was held in the Legion Hall sponsored by the F.U.A. All old timers were admitted free.

A large crowd enjoyed a pleasant evening.

Chapter Nine

Organization

Chamber of Commerce

In 1914, the Swan River Association was formed with 13 members. This Association later became the Chamber of Commerce.

The Swan River Board of Trade
SWAN RIVER, ALBERTA
KINUSO P.D.
Canada

Membership was \$2.00 per member.

Officers were:

Pres. H. W. Walker
Vice-Pres. W. V. Rice
Sec. W. L. McKillop
Treas. Geo. Cornell.

The Kinuso Chamber of Commerce, was formed as a Board of Trade, in July, 1924.

The President was H. W. Walker.

The Secretary was W. L. McKillop.

Some of the Charter Members were:

B. E. Boisvert, A. K. McDonald.

Some of the early projects were:

The Nurses Home, The Peace River Highway, which was finally opened in 1928. The Sports Ground and other various community projects.

Projects worked on in later years: Some early projects worked on in later years were:

Number 2 Highway,
Additional land for the Townsite.
Local Roads,
Location and improvement of the present beach,
Herd Law,

Bridge over the Athabasca at Smith for Highway,
Control of the Lake Level,

The last big project was the Village water supply, Projects being worked on at present are:

No. 2 Highway,
Power for the Village,
Natural Gas for the Village,

Continued improvement of the beach, and Provincial parks along the lakeshore, game preserve, and park 20 miles south of Kinuso, near the Swan Hills.

Now in 1979 — for sometime now the Chamber of Commerce has not been active, due to not enough members.

Swan River, Alberta

Sept. 27th 1918.

Memorandum of Agreement made and entered into between the U.F.A., Building Committee, and G. L. Grono, for the Erection of a Hall to be built at Swan River by the U.F.A. and the U.F.W.A.

G. L. Grono agrees to build the Hall, according to plans and specifications submitted size 28 x 54, with 12 ft. studding — foundation to be of tamarack blocks, set on end. Sills to be built up of 3 ply 2 x 10's and 2 x 4's, and 2 x 4's on inside of longitudinal sills to carry ends of joists. Floor joists 2 x 10, spaced 16" centres - two rows of bridges to each span of joists. Side wall studding to be of 2 x 5 spaced 2 feet on centres, with double plate at top. Rafters to be of 2 x 5, with collar ties 2 x 4, and 1 x 6 braces as shown on plan. Ceiling in front rooms to be 10 feet. Rafters on this part to be supported from ceiling joists. Side wall studding to be covered by a good grade of building paper, and one ply of shiplap, free from loose knots, or shakes. Roof to be covered by shiplap and 1 ply tarpaper. Shingles of a good grade of poplar, or No. 2 cedar, laid 4½" together. Cornice lumber to be of a good grade of balm or spruce. Window frames of same material as Cornice lumber, and to be made with check-sail, and with pulleys for weights.

Sub-floor to be of rough lumber, laid diagonally on joists, covered with 1 ply of tarpaper, and No. 1 Edge-

grain fir. Partitions to be studded, and set 2 foot centres.

The contract is to be completed as soon as possible except the shingles, which are not to go on later than June First 1919. All work to be done in a workman like manner, and to the satisfaction of the Building Committee.

All money is to be drawn by G. L. Grono, the contractor, from G. W. Moore, Chairman of the Finance Committee of the U.F.A. through an order issued by the Building Committee of the U.F.A.

And the Building Committee of the U.F.A. agree to pay G. L. Grono said money for material as fast as material is delivered on ground, or in case of ordering outside to be paid on lumber order.

Contract price of building to be nine hundred dollars (\$900.00).

Signed	{ A. K. Patterson John W. Field Harry Anderson J. L. Harrison W. L. McKillop }	Building Committee
Signed	{ G. L. Grono }	Contractor

Mrs. J. W. (John) Field


Farm Women Concentrate on Problems of Education

Mrs. J. W. Field Gives Her Views on Progress of The U.F.W.A. Movement

"You know, I always love to sit where I can look at Mrs. Field, her clothes are so pretty, and her smile is

**Farm Women Concentrate
On Problems of Education**

U.F.W.A. Official



**Mrs. J. W. Field Gives Her
Views on Progress of
U.F.W.A. Movement**

"You know I always love to sit where I can look at Mrs. Field, her clothes are so pretty and her smile so sweet," confided one delegate to the 1930 convention of the United Farm Women of Alberta.

Mrs. J. W. Field of Spurfild, Alta., was convener of the order of business committee during the convention. While she was forced to surrender some of the responsible work she had undertaken previously for a number of years for the U.F.W.A. last year, due to illness, she served on the provincial board which investigated the mental hospitals and institutions of the province. Wearing a colorful rose gown under a sealskin coat and a smart black hat, she flitted from convention hall to committee room and back again, and the order of business proceeded without a hitch under her capable hands.

Asked her opinion of the 1930 convention as compared with other U.F.W.A. annual gatherings, Mrs. Field said she considered that debate and discussion had occupied a much higher plane carrying on the steady yearly improvement she had noticed before. This she believed was the result of study and education in the public questions of the day which the women carried on themselves in the loyal U.F.W.A. bodies.

"Certainly education was the keynote of this convention in reports, addresses, resolutions, and discussions," said Mrs. Field, "and after all education is the basis of all things, and we must build from the ground up rather than try to change things from the top down."

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Kinuso, Alberta

July 1st 1945.

We, the pioneers and old timers of the Swan River Settlement and the Hamlet of Kinuso, who have been here twenty five years or more, agree to hold an old-timers' picnic, the third week of July each year, to talk over pioneering days in this settlement.



1st Old Timers' Association Picnic.

The following is a list of names from the original copy, held by Jean Quinn.

NAME	YEAR	NAME	YEAR
Jesse Sloan	1907	M. A. McKinley	1921
Nell Sloan	1909	W. V. Rice	1913
James Onstine	1919	B. E. Boisvert	1920
W. J. Hunt	1907	Vera Boisvert	1920
Joseph Stone	1912	Ruby D. Rice	1919
F. W. Hill	1907	Jessie S. Moore	1910

Eva Hill	1907	George W. Moore	1910
D. H. Hunt	1907	Martin Gallagher	1913
James (Scotty) McNeil	1912	Ella Gallagher	1913
Edger Hill	1914	M. J. McNarmara	1918
George E. Cornell	1910	Raymond G. Sloan	1910
Dollie M. Cornell	1918	Dorothy Sloan	1910
T. H. Sloan	1919	Mrs. T. H. Sloan	1919
Charlie Schurter	1909	John Reeves	1920
Jean Quinn	1911	Clara Reeves	1914
Mrs. A. G. Olsen	1920	Fred S. Arnold	1915
E. Boisvert	1914	Annie Isner	1914
James A. McDonald	1919	Mrs. Whitecotton	1914
Vera McLaughlin	1914	Mr. and Mrs. Sam Kool	1918
Martha B. Cline	1913	H. W. Walker	1912
Howard Posey	1908	Olive Walker	1913
Ruth C. Hamson	1920	James Grono	1913
Charlie Kusch	1918	George Leslie Adams	1917
Doris Kusch	1918	Harry and Mrs. Braniff, Slave Lake	1907
Mrs. A. Bradford	1920	Unice V. Smith	1916
J. H. Adams	1919	Dora Harrison	1912
Tom Sloan	1916	Mrs. O. Lillo	1917
Jane Sangster	1916	Ray Sloan	1918
I. H. Sangster	1912	Tom McNeill	1919
Curt McKinley	1913	Evelyn Robinson	1918
Wayne Sloan	1919	Jack Killeen Sr.	1913
Mrs. Edger Stevenson	1917	Pete Thomson	1911
Edger Stevenson	1917	Robt. W. Isner	1914
Manuel Grono	1907	W. J. Adams	1915
Silas Stuck	1912	Mike Prichuk	1916
Hercil H. Sloan	1908	Joe Labby	1915
C. J. Cline	1919	Tom Grono	1913
Charlie Sloan	1911	Henry Griffin	1920
Cecil Grono	1913	A. Mallard	1922
H. Lelgedahl	1912	Elizabeth Swanson	1914
Ellen Roe Adams Kelly, Nanaimo	1917	John R. Swanson	
Mr. and Mrs. N. Tilley, Calgary	1916	Mr. John O. Rumbly, Faust	1915
Wm M. King Calgary	1919	Edgar Ashley, Mass. U.S.A.	1914
Eva (Ashley) Cotton, of Ontario	1914		

Old Timers Picnic

On Sunday, July, 22nd. 1945, the old timers, their families and friends held their first picnic, at the Narrows on Lesser Slave Lake. Approximately two hundred persons were present. A picnic lunch was served on a long table, which Mr. Jesse Sloan brought and erected on the beach. After lunch there were several soft ball games played, and a few games of horseshoe were played. Owing to the roughness of the lake, only a few went in swimming.

In the late afternoon, Mr. and Mrs. Kusch

extended an invitation to those there to go to their home, as a high wind made it disagreeable on the beach. Several people stopped at Kusch's and enjoyed their picnic lunch on the lawn. We wish to thank the Kusch's for their hospitality. A vote of thanks was given to Mr. F. W. Hill, on his interest in arranging for this picnic.



Left to right, front row: George Moore, Scotty McNeil, Mrs. Whitecotton, Glennie Hunt, Cynthia Roe, Joe Stone, Mrs. Gallagher.
Left to right, back row: Hercel Sloan, Jesse Sloan, Mrs. Clara Grono, Wilfred Hunt, Harry Hunt, Finny Hill, Eva Hill, and Willard Grono.

Mr. Schurter of Slave Lake then called the group together and suggested forming an organization and electing officers. The following were elected:

Mr. F. W. Hill, Kinuso, President,
Mr. George W. Moore, Kinuso, Vice-President,
Mrs. Jean Quinn, Kinuso, Secretary-treasurer,

An executive of 5 members as follows:

C. J. Schurter, Slave Lake.
Jesse Sloan, Kinuso.
Bennie Boisvert, of Kinuso.
Harry Hunt, Kinuso.
Mr. George E. Cornell, Kinuso.

It was decided to extend the district, so that Slave Lake and Driftpile would be included and hold a picnic each year.



Left to right: Jesse Sloan, Wilfred Hunt, Harry Hunt, Finny Hill, Eva Hill. These Pioneers received a gold medal for being here 50 years.

The Second Old Timers Picnic

The second "Old Timers" picnic will be held on July 21st at "Poplar Point", half a mile north of the Kusch farm, and two miles west.

There will be a roll call and each member will answer to his name by telling of some of his or her experiences of early days. Everybody come and bring the grub box, and tea pail, and have a good time.

EVERYBODY WELCOME.

Swan Valley Ladies' Auxiliary

On March 10, 1942 during World War II, Mrs. Geo. Moore, Mrs. Martin Gallagher and Mrs. Ray Sloan called a meeting of interested ladies to meet at the home of Mrs. Moore, to organize a gathering to send parcels of goodies, cigarettes etc. to the boys in the Services from the district.

Most of the district ladies attended and an organization was formed with Mrs. Ray Sloan as President, Mrs. Jean Quinn as Vice-Pres. and Mrs. Joe Green as Secretary treasurer. Membership fees were set at twenty five cents and we started with fifteen members. A name for the organization had to be thought of and after several ideas discussed, Mrs. Gallagher came up with the suggestion of Swan Valley Ladies' Auxiliary, all were in favour of adopting this name so it was carried. Funds of course were needed so Mrs. Moore offered to open up her home the following week for a tea and from this sixteen dollars and thirty five cents was cleared.

The meetings were held every second Sunday afternoon for the first year so to further our treasury it was decided at the next meeting to make wool quilts to be drawn for and some donated to the Salvation Army and Red Cross. Our first quilt was made from materials (print) donated by Mrs. Albert Foley, a quilted batt was purchased and at a gathering the quilt was assembled and tickets were sold on it. Later many patchwork tops were pieced together, as each member was responsible for a patchwork square 25 inches by 18 inches thus making a good sized quilt of about 72 by 90 inches. Generally some member and some non members would donate material for a backing and thread was also generally donated.



Quilt made by S.V.L.A. members, showing embroidered names of members and executive. In honor of 25th anniversary. Won in raffle by Sylvia Sloan.

It wasn't long before we were able to send the boys overseas, boxes containing a good assortment of

treats and also an allotment of cigarettes once a month through the Sweet Caporal Cigarette Co. We continued to do this until the end of the war and the boys returned home. After this we continued to have our meetings but only once a month and contributed donations to various community efforts.

After the school was transferred to town we continued giving the district children their annual Christmas party and treats.

In the latter part of the 1960's we took over the management of the Swan Valley Community Hall, which had been built by volunteer labor from the young men of the district. Mr. Steve Winters contributed a good deal of time also Earl and Ken Sloan, Earl Swanson, Alvin Sloan, Murray Cuthbert, Lawrence Sloan, only to name a few. It was opened for their first dance November 1957.

The Auxiliary continued to thrive even though sometimes there would be eleven members present and twenty two pre-school children, but we all survived and no regrets.

We sponsored a fall Horticulture Fair for two or three years in the Kinuso Legion Hall which was very successful each time, giving trophies and cash credits.

After thirty seven years of hanging together we are still active although our membership has dwindled due to people moving away, some have passed on but there are two of the original members still active and interested, these being Mrs. Ernest (Sylvia) Sloan and Mrs. Ed. (Jean) Quinn.

Other members now consist of second generation who seem still to be interested in carrying on.



30th Anniversary of Swan Valley Ladies Auxiliary. Original members — Jean Quinn, Delta Sloan and Sylvia Sloan.

Curious Card Club

During the winter of 1930-31, due to lack of entertainment it was decided to start having card parties in our homes.

The game played was five hundred. The games were held each Saturday evening with an admission fee of twenty-five cents and prizes were given every fourth Saturday to the highest score for the four weeks, one to the lady high and to the man high also a

small booby prize to the lowest score of all.

The name of the club was derived from the curiosity of many outsiders as to what type of card parties we were having so it became known as the Curious Card Club.

There would generally always be five or six tables of four and several times there were ten and twelve tables, then every conceivable thing would be used as tables, from bake boards, over turned dresser (empty of course) pieces of card board which would be supported on the players knees.

The ladies all brought lunch so a very enjoyable fun evening would be had.

The bridge across the Swan River was out that winter due to the June flood so people would often gather at Moores and a team would be used from there at times and go as far as the Ray Sloans who had a truck with a large box on the back on the other side of the river so if the party was at the end of the district everyone climbed in and away we went.

One evening in nice weather the party was held at Mike McNamaras across the river so six people started out from Moores on foot to go five miles, stopping in at each place along the way and being joined by other players making a total of around twenty by the time we all arrived, however we all arrived in high spirits and spent an enjoyable evening, and made the return trip home in good spirits also. Mr. Moore, one of the walkers was heard to remark that he had travelled that same road several times at a much slower speed.

The next winter we undertook to put on a play "The Deacon Slips" under the guidance of Miss Evelyn Brown, the Valley teacher. Many enjoyable times were had at the practises when finally we were ready to stage the play in the Valley school. Everything went off very well and a good sized crowd attended. With this money we raised we purchased green twill material for stage curtains in the school also fifty enamel cups and spoons to be used at community gatherings.

During this time cards were still played at our regular times so our Curious Card Club survived its second winter; but the third winter there wasn't the interest due to many reasons so it quietly dwindled out.

The Kinuso Women's Institute

The Kinuso Women's Institute was one of the most active clubs in this community. It was run for a great length of time; from 1934-65-66. It had a membership of 28 the first year. It took in members from the Swan Valley, Town of Kinuso and surrounding area.

It was organized February 17th, 1934, at the home of Mrs. N. Bowen, by Mrs. Frank Pottage of High Prairie; Constituency Convener. Officers elected were:

President — Mrs. N. Bowen

Vice-President — Mrs. W. V. Rice

Secretary-treasurer — Mrs. J. Idhe

Directors — Mrs. Hannah Thomson, Mrs. A. K. McDonald, Mrs. Nellie Whitecotton.



W.I. Members.

Left to right, Back: Mrs. Lillo, Mrs. McDonald, Hannah Thomson, Mrs. Ruby Rice, Mrs. Nat Bowen.

Left to right, Front: Myrtle McLaughlin, Mrs. Myron, and Arnie Card.

There were 18 Charter members; five who carried on, the Charter members being Mrs. W. V. Rice, Mrs. Hannah Thomson, Mrs. A. K. McDonald, Mrs. Dave Myron and Mrs. Nellie Whitecotton.

Over the years, the W.I. sponsored the Kinuso Kalico Kids, Girls club, undertook the maintenance of the Provincial Nurses Home until the Kinuso Municipal Nursing Service Society took over in 1951. They assisted in other community projects, especially during the War years.

For eleven years the W.I. sponsored the Annual Flower and Vegetable Show. They presented a \$25.00 scholarship for the grade nine student with the highest standing.

A few notes from the W.I. minute books:

1935 — W.I. bought an organ for the United Church, for \$50.00 — also 10 lengths of stovepipe for the church. Mr. Dave Myron saw to the buying of this.

1936 — W.I. asked to take over the running of the U.F.A. Hall. They decided to try it for a year.

1937 — Took on job of the maintenance of the nurses home. They were responsible for getting a Dentist Clinic in for the children and adults. Bought material, made layettes and distributed them to needy mothers.

1938 — March 9th — motion made by Mrs. Frank Dewis to offer a special prize to the child under 13 years of age obtaining highest points at the School. \$8.00 was given for prizes and \$3.00 for special prizes.

1950 — Motion made to have a Flower and Vegetable Show. Was decided to have it open to the public.

1959 — Started Kinuso Kalico Kids Girls Club, but prior to this, they had sponsored the Guides and Brownies for a few years under leadership of Helen Gillett.

There were many other things they did over the years such as:

— sponsored Cancer Drive; gave fruit and flowers to the ill; T.B. Clinics, and so on.

The following is a copy of the first meeting held:

A meeting was held at the home of Mrs. N. Bowen, Saturday, Feb. 17, 1934 at 3 p.m. for the purpose of organizing a local branch of the Women's Institute.

Mrs. Frank Pottage of High Prairie, District Con-

vener, took the chair and gave an outline of the work of the organization. Other visitors were Mrs. Saucke, Mrs. Janssen and Mrs. Learning, all of High Prairie and members of the Institute.

Mrs. McKillop made a motion that Mrs. Rice act as secretary for the meeting, seconded by Mrs. Moore. A motion was made by Mrs. Ihde, seconded by Mrs. Bowen that we organize a Women's Institute.

Mrs. Ihde nominated Mrs. Bowen for president. No other nominations were made and Mrs. Ihde moved nominations cease, seconded by Mrs. Myron. Mrs. Bowen was elected president by acclamation.

Nominations for First Vice-president were then asked for. Mrs. Cornell nominated Mrs. Rice. Mrs. Bowen nominated Mrs. Patterson. A vote was taken by ballot. Mrs. Rice was elected. Nominations for sec-treas. were then in order. Mrs. Rice nominated Mrs. Idhe, no other nominations being made, Mrs. Bowen moved that nominations close. Mrs. Ihde was elected by acclamation.



W.I. Members going to Convention in McLennan.

Nominations were then in order for a Board of Directors consisting of three. Mrs. Cornell was nominated by Mrs. Ihde. Mrs. Cornell withdrew her name thinking she would be unable to act being out of town. Mrs. Thomson was then nominated by Mrs. Bowen. Mrs. McDonald nominated Mrs. Whitecotton. Mrs. Whitecotton nominated by Mrs. McKillop. These were elected to the board by acclamation.

Nominations for auditors: Mrs. F. Hill by Mrs. Thomson. Mrs. Patterson by Mrs. Cornell. Mrs. Hill and Mrs. Patterson were elected as auditors by acclamation.

Nominations for Programme Convener. Mrs. McKillop nominated by Mrs. Bowen, Mrs. McKillop withdrew her name. Mrs. Ihde nominated Mrs. Rice. Mrs. Rice elected by acclamation. Two other members on this committee were nominated and elected by acclamation. Mrs. Myron nominated by Mrs. Rice. Mrs. Hearsey nominated by Mrs. Bowen.

This completed the list of officers and committees necessary for the organization. The meeting was open to a discussion as to membership fee. A motion was made by Mrs. McKillop seconded by Mrs. Moore that we have a membership fee of fifty (50¢) per year.

Sixteen members enrolled. The first regular meeting of the Kinuso Institute to be held at the home of Mrs. Whitecotton, Feb. 28 at 3 p.m. with Mrs. Bowen

and Mrs. Cornell luncheon hostesses.

A vote of thanks to the ladies of High Prairie for coming to Kinuso and helping us to organize our Institute was moved by Mrs. Ihde and responsibility of by the Kinuso ladies.

Mrs. Pottage expressed thanks and appreciation of this motion on behalf of the High Prairie ladies. A motion to adjourn was made by Mrs. Bowen, seconded by Mrs. Ihde.

The meeting adjourned.

R. B. Rice
Sect. protem
E. W. Bowen

List of names of the ladies who joined in 1934;

MRS. J. C. IHDE
MRS. W. McKILLOP
MRS. M. PATTERSON
MRS. G. CORNELL
MRS. S. KOOL
MRS. G. MOORE
MRS. P. THOMSON
MISS DONALDSON
MRS. D. MYRON
MRS. A. McDONALD
MRS. N. BOWEN
MRS. C. HEARSEY
MRS. F. HILL
MRS. W. RICE
MRS. N. WHITECOTTON
MRS. D. LANGFORD
MRS. R. FIELD
MRS. C. R. FIELD
MRS. F. DEWIS
MRS. S. OLSON
MRS. E. HELMER
MRS. F. SHELDON
MISS E. BOWEN
MRS. E. ENGLISH
MRS. E. BRYAN
MRS. M. McKINLEY

Kinuso Curling Rink

(Built after World War II)

The dazzling new rink of the Kinuso Curling Club is a tribute to what a community can accomplish. This two sheet, regulation ice rink was built entirely by volunteer labor. The co-operative effort included nearly everyone in the community.

Work started, March 1954 when fourteen men from Kinuso and district went out to the bush "en mass." In one burst of activity they felled and hauled enough saw logs to the mill of Edgar Hill, to provide sufficient lumber for the construction of the new rink. Equipment contributes for this giant operation consisted of five power saws, four tractors, and two trucks for hauling logs to the mill, and six skidding horses. The Churchill Brothers furnished a tractor for sawing and Mr. Hill supervised the operations.

Construction of the new Quonset type building got under way late in the fall. Doug McLaughlin, Fore-

man for Dept. of Highways, designed the new rink and with the able assistance of Leo Boisvert, supervised the building operations.

The outside was completely sheeted with aluminum, with the exception of the ends and inside. In the building were two large 20' by 35' waiting rooms. Both upstairs and downstairs had windows opening onto the rink. It was completed in time for the opening on Jan. 1, 1955.

Credit is due to the whole community and especially to Doug McLaughlin, Henry Lysne, Pres. of the Kinuso Curling Club. Benny Boisvert, Vice-president, and Owen Jordon, Sec. Tres.

The social benefits of this communal enterprise are going to be immense. Keen interest in curling is already shown by people who have never had the opportunity before. When the season opened only five persons in Kinuso had curled before, now there are 21 rinks or 84 people who are members and regular curlers. To insure a steady supply of curling material, Doug McLaughlin is busy conducting a curling class for students from school. There are four rinks entered in the club from Junior High School and there are prospects of many more to come.

The Kinuso Cubs and Scouts

* * * * *

Scouting in Kinuso was founded in November 1958. Mr. K. A. Thorburn, a new arrival from High Prairie, outlined the organizing of the Cubs at the 13th annual banquet of the Kinuso Legion.

On the 18th, a parent meeting was held in the Legion Hall, with Doug. McLaughlin, president of the Legion, acting chairman. The Kinuso Legion had agreed to sponsor the scouting program.

Special speaker was Mr. H. B. Holloway, provincial executive commissioner, from Edmonton.

The first group committee was chosen with Fred Prichuk, Jr. being president and Mrs. Helen Gillett, secretary-treasurer. Others on the committee were Mrs. Hazel Hushagen, Joe Akewich, Frank Sowan and Owen Brown.

The first Wolf Cub meeting was held in the Legion Hall on Dec. 4th, 1958. Leaders were Cubmaster Art Thorburn and assistants Mrs. Thorburn and John Kirtio. The meeting was attended by 17 boys.

Jan. 8, 1959, the first scout meeting was held in the school. Leaders were Scoutmaster Dick Swaren and assistants Peter Czelenski and Joe Akewich. The meeting was attended by 13 boys. The Cub Pack had grown to 24 boys. Mrs. Margaret Kool had consented to act on the group committee, replacing Joe Akewich.

Along with regular Pack and Troop activities, the group accepted an invitation to the High Prairie Ice Stampede on March 20th 1959, the community showing their enthusiasm by sending 17 cars.

On June 19th 1959, the first Scouting Father and Son banquet was held in the Legion Hall with approximately 100 in attendance. It was a great success, especially for the Cubs who held a bird house auction sale. Outside speaker was Mr. Joe Leask from the

High Prairie Group Committee.

Starting a new scouting year in September, 1959, we have changes in the Group Committee and Group. Mrs. Dorothy Wilton and Mrs. Alice Hunt are replacing Mrs. Kool and Mrs. Hushagen on the Group Committee. Also Mr. Joe Akewich is back on the Committee. The Scout Troop starts the year with Scoutmaster Dick Swaren and Assistants John Kirtio, Loren Cornell and Francis Dow. The Cub Pack starts with Cubmaster Art Thorburn, Mrs. Mary Lillo and Peter Celenski.

Word was received that a lease had been approved for 9.8 acres of land on the shore of Lesser Slave Lake, north of Kinuso. Plans started for a future Boy Scout camp on the site.

January, 1960, Mrs. Lena Twin and Mrs. Maurice Depledge were asked to serve on the Group Committee and accepted.

The main events this spring were again a trip to the ice stampede at High Prairie and our second Father and Son Banquet. This banquet was a very special one for the Kinuso group. Special speaker from Provincial Headquarters, Mr. C. R. Whittaker, officially presented the Group with their charter on behalf of the sponsoring body.

In the first part of June, Maurice Depledge, took over the duties of secretary-treasurer, and Mr. Tom Hill was asked to become a member and accepted. At present, in this new year of scouting, we have a few more changes. Our group committee reads: President, Fred Prichuk Jr.; secretary-treasurer, Maurice Depledge. Other members are Mrs. Alice Hunt, Mrs. Dorothy Wilton, Mrs. Mary Card, Mrs. Lena Twin, Mrs. Elizabeth McRee and Tom Hill.

Cub Leaders or Cubmaster, Art Thorburn and assistants Mrs. Mary Lillo, Peter Czelenski and Mrs. Thorburn. Scout Leaders are Scoutmaster John Adams (new United Church layman replacing Dick Swaren, who is now taking training at St. Stevens College) and Assistants John Kirtio, Joe Akewich and Loren Cornell. Present membership in the group is 41 boys.

So far this year a highlight for the Cubs has been a trip to Marten Mountain, where they visited the new forestry kitchen, the forestry tower and expresses their thanks to the Eben Family for the fine tour through Mr. Eben's museum, where the huge grizzly bear stands lord over all.

Our chief work object right now is to complete the scout camp-site to where it will accommodate one complete Cub pack or one Scout Troop. The camp will be available to other groups and organizations upon completion. At present one building has been erected but is not quite finished. It is hoped that Cubs will be able to camp there this coming summer. The Kinuso Scouts have already used the site for two camps and find the effort well placed in forging ahead.

The community is proud of their group and their boys. What have you done for Scouting in your community?

Kinuso Guide and Brownie Organization

The Kinuso Brownie and Guide organizations

were first formed in May or June 1951. The organization was sponsored by the Kinuso Women's Institute, with the auxiliary being made up of the W. I. members. The Guide captain at this time was Mrs. Helen Gillett, ably assisted by Mrs. Laura Messenger. Mrs. Gillett remained as captain until 1957, which was about six years. Mrs. Hannah Thomson was also assistant for a few months.

When the girls were first organized, they were encouraged to earn money to buy material for their uniforms. The W.I. matched dollar for dollar any money raised for this project. The material was bought, the uniforms cut out, and the girls had to sew them, or have someone do it for them.

In 1957, Mrs. Gillett turned the leadership over to a school teacher by the name of Miss Mena Boehni. It was continued for a short while. The Brownies were led by Mrs. Jean Jordon, Brown Owl, and Mrs. Winnie Eddney, Tawney Owl. This was turned over to Mrs. Margaret Dumont and Mrs. Mary Card. In 1955, it was disbanded, started again by Mrs. Elaine Richards in 1957, and stopped again when Mrs. Richards left in June 1958.

Kinuso was without Brownie and Guide organizations until May 1962, when the Legion Wives were asked to sponsor these organizations. They gave sponsorship, and the Guides were again operating. Captain Helen Gillett assisted by Mrs. Laurel Henze led these groups at this time. When Mrs. Henze left, Mrs. Gillett acquired the very able leadership of Miss Fern Shoop and Mrs. Irma Churchill. Mrs. Churchill gave up leadership in July 1966, and took up the job as secretary of the Slave Lake District Council.

Neither Brownies or Guides can hold a recognized camp unless they have a licenced camper present. The Guides had only 2 large camps, one at Kinuso beach, in Gilletts cabin and tents, with a Mrs. A. N. Michaud of Edmonton supervising. Mrs. Michaud was a Northern Alberta Camp Advisor. In 1963, Mrs. Gillett and Mrs. Churchill took seven girls to Pigeon Lake for a weeks camping under the supervision of Mrs. L. Moden, camp advisor. Guide Ione Huculak was the first guide in Kinuso to earn her life and religion Emblem, being taught and tested by Father Fillion.

In the summer of 1964, 15 guides, Mrs. Gillett, Miss Shoop, and Mrs. Churchill accompanied by the Scouts and their leaders had a trip to Edmonton. The girls stayed at the Gillett Sr. residence, and managed a tour of the city, a visit to city hall, the Jubilee Auditorium, etc. They also had a tour of the parliament buildings, Planitarium, radio station CHED, television station C.F.R.N., McGavin Bakery, Purity Dairy, Coco-Cola plant, a visit to Storyland Valley Zoo, and a ride on the Klondike Queen, the river boat.

They also took a trip on highway 16 to Al Oeming's game farm, which they enjoyed very much.

While in the city, they did a little shopping in the big stores. They made two visits to the Mill Creek Ravine Pool.

The girls had three very fine mother and daughter banquets. They also participated in two joint parent

nights with the Cub and Scouts.

The Brownie organization was again started in 1964. with Brown Owl, Mrs. Ish and Tawny Owl, Mrs. Mary Czelenski. The leadership was carried on as follows;

Brown Owl	Tawny Owl
1964 — Mrs. Ish	Mrs. Mary Czelenski
1965 Mrs. M. Czelenski	Mrs. Vena Lyness
	Miss N. Ozadchuk
1966 — Mrs. Vena Lyness	Mrs. Natalie Dow
1967 — Mrs. Natalie Dow	Mrs. Joyce Durnin
	Mrs. Donna Sodergren.

Mrs. Lyness had two girls complete all their Brownie work and fly up to Guides. These were Neva Churchill and Vicky Flynn.

Mrs. Dow also had two girls fly up to Guides. These were Valerie Lyness and Cindy Boisvert.

The Brownies had two get together with the Valleyview Brownies. The first in Valleyview and the second hosted in Kinuso by the Kinuso Brownies.

Kinuso Kard Klub

One of the early recreational organizations formed in the hamlet of Kinuso was the Kinuso Kard Klub (K.K.K.) It was formed for social purposes to help wile away the long winter evenings. The records of this Klub are still in the hands of one of the descendants of an original member. The following is an account of a meeting held May 21, 1927;

"The last regular meeting of the Kinuso Kard Klub was held. Five hundred was played at four tables until twelve o'clock. Refreshments were then served and a business meeting held. The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved. The treasurer's report was then given. It was moved by Mrs. Charlie Helmer that we buy two erasers for the blackboard, seconded by Mr. Mike Miskow. A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Miss Mabel Stevenson, seconded by Tom Grono!

The fee for membership in the Klub was 25¢ per year. They advanced to the stage where they purchased an orthophonic and records for dancing. They loaned this machine out to other groups who came into being later on at a charge of \$5.00. Several times they held card parties and dances for the purpose of raising money towards the building of the Nurses Home.

The minutes of these various meetings are very interesting to read when compared with our modern version of an evenings entertainment with our radio and T.V. etc . . . By 1932 they had introduced bridge games into the Klub. Here are the minutes of a meeting held January 1932; "The last regular meeting of the Kinuso Kard Klub was held Jan. 23rd. Cards were played at six tables until 12 o'clock. Refreshments were then served and the business meeting held. The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved. The treasurer's report was read showing a balance of \$21.59 on hand. A motion was made by Kenny Thomson seconded by Mrs. McKillip that Mrs. Don Langford act as a member of the board of

directors' committee, carried. Moved by Kenny Thomson, seconded by Mrs. McKillip that we dance for an hour. Carried. Mrs. McKillip moved the meeting be adjourned. Seconded by Kenny Thomson. Carried."

Their last meeting was held March 29th, 1934. At this time it was decided that the Klub had out lived its usefulness and in disbanding they agreed to turn over all the furniture and monies accumulated over the years by the Klub, to the recently formed Women's Institute. As a sort of farewell to the old Klub, an oyster supper was held in the home of Mr. & Mrs. W. V. Rice prepared by Mrs. McKillip and Mrs. Rice.

A good time was had by all.

The Kinuso and District Fish and Game Association

The organization was first formed in the spring of 1967 but fizzled out in the fall of 1968 when part of the executive moved away. It was strongly reorganized on April 16, 1969 and a membership of sixty was attained that year. Memberships in the succeeding years has always been over one hundred.

Of interest, in the fall of 1969 twenty five dollars was donated to the Kinuso School "Reach For The Top" team.

In December 1969 the final lease papers were executed so that a shooting range could be constructed east of Kinuso on Prichuck Hill.

The first annual Fish and Game banquet was held on January 16, 1970 in the Legion Hall. It was a tremendous success then and has continued to be each year since.



In the summer of 1970 the association reached a "high" when they "blew the whistle" on the oil industry in the Swan Hills. Under our Pest and Pollution committee chairman Keith Kepke a brief was compiled, and submitted to the Alberta Government, containing unbelievable negligence by some in the oil industry.

On July 3, 1970 a C.B.C. television crew arrived in Kinuso, with reporter Dwayne Erikson, to tour the Swan Hills oilfield with regard to the brief submitted.

On July 6, 1970 television coverage was received on local T.V. and picked up and shown on the National night news coverage. We also got excellent coverage by other papers and local radio stations.

Excerpts from an article printed in the Edmonton Journal by reporter Bob Bell, quote. "On the basis of pictures of 15 well sites contained in a report made public by the Kinuso Fish and Game Association last week, the spills "are difficult to justify from an operating standpoint" and they "are not typical of the industry," said Health Minister J. D. Henderson Thursday.

"It is sloppy, lousy housekeeping," said the health minister, himself a petroleum engineer.

Officials of the Oil and Gas Conservation Board, the provincial oil regulating body, are being dispatched to the area. Mr. Henderson said he is confident the board has the power to do something about the spills and will rectify the problems.

"But this doesn't excuse what has happened in the Swan Hills area. From his own background in the industry, Mr. Henderson said he can see no excuse for such spills. It could be time to "throw the book" at such offenders, he said.

"Stringent measures are in order to correct the situation," he said. He is confident the board "will see the mess cleaned up" and will insist on a general tightening up of operating standards to minimize the possibility of recurrences." Unquote.

At the Annual Fish and Game Convention, held in Medicine Hat February 1971, the Kinuso Association was awarded the provincial trophy called the "Henry Lenbicz Trophy for Pollution Control — Clean Air — Clean Land — Clean Water."



NOTE — Our Association thanks Keith Kepke, his wife, and family, as all Albertans should, for putting his job "on the line," and reporting a crime he could not stand to see occurring. Keith soon after resigned

his position with the Alberta Forest Service and joined the National Forest Service in the N.W. Territories.

In the spring of 1970 we had Rainbow Trout planted in the dead water river slough at George Sheldons, but unsuccessfully as the water tested little oxygen by spring of 1971.



Andy and Stan Olsen with fish catch.



Fred Arnold - Ben Boisvert,
Mr. McKillop - Matt Whitecotton.

We continued to push the Government and keep them aware.

This time, July 21, 1971, Dwayne Erikson and

C.B.C. television crew followed up the erosion story which had briefly been presented in our pollution brief. The T.V. story was shown on local coverage July 23 and picked up and shown on the National News July 26th. We again got good coverage from the Edmonton Journal and local papers.

In the summer of 1973 pheasant rearing pens were built on the farm of George Gallagher. Our Association has since raised and turned loose approximately two hundred mature pheasants. There are still a few around and hopes are to raise more birds in the future.

Interest in the Association fluctuates with the passing seasons and different tasks. But the main thing is that the base is there, and the backing, should the need arise.

The Kinuso Kalico Kids

1959-1968

Written by Melanie McLaughlin from material submitted by her grandmother.

The Kinuso Women's Institute sponsored the Kinuso Kalico Kids in 1959. It took in handicrafts of all kinds, bake sales, bazaars, cooking, and hiking, their achievement day and a yearly trip to the Olds School of Agriculture for a girl's club convention. The girls who were members, ranged in age from 6 to 16. It started under the leadership of Vera McLaughlin, Ali Van der Horst and Margaret Dumont, with five girls as members; Nellie McLaughlin, Connie Sloan, Jeannie Armitage, Annie Ackewich and Linda Dumont.



Kinuso Kalico Kids — started in the summer of 1959.
Left to right: Connie Sloan, Nellie McLaughlin, Annie Achewich,
Jean Armitage.

As the years went by the membership rose to 43 girls. There were three different age groups. The little girls who were just beginning, the intermediate girls who made articles and had them judged at a yearly achievement day, and the Senior girls who made

quilts, sweaters and longer projects. As the club grew, Karen McLaughlin, Carol McLaughlin and Rhoda Lovelace joined the club as leaders.

The girls met once a week, from after school until supertime in one of the member's homes to work on their projects. Many of the girls will remember the "girl's club cakes" stirred up and served at the last minute by Vera McLaughlin. They often had sockhops after they had finished work on their projects until it was time to go home. They all seemed like one big happy family.



Rhoda Lovelace and Karen McLaughlin — when they took a group of K.K.K. to Old's for Convention.

Every year the leaders hired a school bus and there was a trip to the Girl's Club Convention in Olds. This was an event the girls worked towards all year. The trip lasted three to four days and at the convention, the girls had their handicraft judged; participated in fashion shows, sing-songs, banquets and various other attractions.



A group of Kinuso Kalico Kids with Mrs. Van der Horst, one of the leaders.

Everyone got to know everyone else and a fun filled two or three days were spent there. All of the girls who went on these trips (mostly from the Senior group) remember them and can talk for hours about experiences they had going to Olds and some of the best times of their lives.

The girls club isn't operating anymore. In 1968, some of the leaders moved and several others lost interest in the club. The next year there weren't enough leaders to continue though the girls were still enthusiastic.

The Kinuso Home and School Association

The 'Home and School' is an active organization in Kinuso, with a membership of about 100.

The President is Bernard Czelenski, and the secretary is Mrs. Vera McLaughlin. Representing the school is M. DePledge.

The present project which this organization is working on is to have a film strip library functioning. Money for the project is being raised through concerts, and an auction sale being held in the Legion Hall.

Red Cross swimming lessons have been sponsored by this 'Home and School' in past years.

The Kinuso Municipal Library

The Kinuso Municipal Library came into being on May 17th 1975 for which there was open house with coffee and doughnuts and the cutting of the ribbon by Mayor Peter Cziniski and chairlady Carol Specht.



Kinuso Municipal Library — May 17th, 1979.

Left to right: Mayor Peter Czelenski, Chairman Carol Specht.



Kinuso Municipal Library.

The first board members were Carol Specht, chairlady — Helen Ord, Sec. Trea. — Helen Chasse' Librarian — Florence Stern, board members — Doris Hunt, Sharon Sloan. There has been many change over the years and the library has grown bigger and better, with books for every style of reading for the young and old.

The library is opened 7 hours a week, Mon. 7 p.m.-9 p.m., Thurs. 7 p.m.-9 p.m. and Sat. 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. every week, with meetings the last Monday of every month. The present board 1979 is — Florence Stern, chairlady — Helen Chasse', Sec. Trea. and Librarian — Doris Hunt, Phyllis Krinbill, Grace Roffey and Louise Roe as board members.

4H-Club

By Gertie Cunningham

4-H helps the young people in our community become creative and productive citizens. It provides them with the technology and management principles to deal with crises in food, water, and natural resources. Through local 4-H clubs, our youth gain skills in working with people, in leadership, and in using leisure time creatively. 4-H helps build our community and our nation. It involves young people between the ages of ten and twenty-one, who may choose from a large variety of projects, including beef, heifers, swine, horses, clothing, foods, gardening, handicraft, leather, automotive, trapping and on and on —

THE 4-H PLEDGE IS: I PLEDGE

My head to clearer thinking,
My heart to greater loyalty,
My hands to larger service, and
My health to better living for
My club, my community, and my country.

The 4-H motto, "Learn to do by doing", fairly well explains the purpose of the club. A 4-H club is as strong as its leaders, who are adults from our community, volunteering their time because they are interested in the project, the youth, and the community.

4-H was first introduced into Kinuso in 1957 by the D.A., Merv Jacque, and a swine and beef club were formed. There were nine members, among them were, Edna Quinn (Speakman), Lee Bajer, and Pearl Krinbill. The beef club folded up after two months. The swine club held on a little longer, but disintegrated also, due to lack of interest.

In the fall of 1965, a 4-H beef club was re-introduced and flourished for the next three years, under the strong leadership of Dick Steinhaur (a former bank manager) and his assistant, Fred Tanghe. There were approximately thirty-five members, namely — Doug and Pearl Leavette, Karen and Dan Sloan, Eleanor and Beatrice Gallagher, Roberta, Dixon and Cheryl Armitage, Ken and Jim Sheldon, Carol Tanghe, Ann and Jim Prichuk, Ken, Cliff, Brian, and Jean Hunt, Milton, Marlene, and Judy

Sloan, Nellie McLaughlin, Donald Plante, Fred Skrynyk, Art and Susan Hunt, Glenda and Gayle Leavitt, Doug Krinbill, Rus and Sharon Cuthbert, Bruce and Blair Hunt and Dean Loyie.

The first year was a very productive one. They took part in the district curling fun spiel, in High Prairie, entered a float in the first of July parade, and competed in public speaking. Ann Prichuk and Fred Skrynyk represented their club at the district speaking in High Prairie.

The first Achievement Day was held in Kinuso June 9th, 1966; 15 steers were shown. Milton Sloan's steer was judged Grand Champion; Marlene had the Reserve, Marlene also received the trophy for showmanship and grooming. Doug Leavitt won the Proficiency trophy, and Eleanor Gallagher received the trophy for record keeping.



1966 Achievement Day in Kinuso.



Doug Leavitt receives Proficiency trophy and father Jay Leavitt holding Award trophy. Early winner.

The second year saw an increase in membership and enthusiasm. Approximately 32 members participated in a sleighride, Christmas Party, district curling, public speaking and various other activities. About 30 steers were shown and sold at a Grand Achievement Day, on Farmers Day, June 9th, 1967. Ken Sheldon showed the Grand Champion and Eleanor Gallagher, the Reserve. Milton Sloan received the trophy for showmanship and grooming. Fred Skrynyk received the Proficiency trophy.



1967 4-H Achievement. Grand Champion — Ken Sheldon. Beside Ken, his brother Jim Sheldon.



1967 Achievement Day. Grand Champion — Ken Sheldon; Reserve Champion — Eleanor Gallagher.

1967-68 was also an active year. The Achievement day was held in High Prairie with interclub competition June 10th, 1968. Judy Sloan showed the Kinuso Grand, Marlene, the Reserve. Milton won the Proficiency trophy that year.

In 1968, Mr. Steinhaur was transferred, and the leadership was taken over by Dale McLaughlin for part of the year, and then completed by George Gallagher. A heifer club was also formed under the leadership of Helen Leavitt. Seven heifers were judged at the Leavitt farm by Art Peyre, and a weiner roast was held after. An interclub Achievement Day



1969 Achievement Day in High Prairie. Grand Champion — Dean Loyie; Reserve Champion — Marlene Sloan, Clifford Hunt, Judy Sloan.

was held in High Prairie June 2nd, 1969, for the beef Club. Dean Loyie showed the Kinuso Grand, and Marlene Sloan, the Reserve. The trophies were never given out for that year. As quickly as it started, it folded and 4-H became dormant for the next six years.



1969 Heifer Club. Milton Sloan, Eleanor Gallagher, Gayle Leavitt, Glenda and Pearl Leavitt.

In 1976, the newly formed Agricultural Society with the help of the D.A., Mr. Graves, sparked a new

interest, and a joint beef and light horse club was formed with 25 members. Duane Dibble was the new leader, George Gallagher and Ella Sloan, the project leaders. The beef interclub show and sale was held in High Prairie July 5th, 1977. Kevin Hunt had the Kinuso Grand, Maureen McLaughlin the Reserve, Grant Gallagher won Showmanship and Grooming, Rossanne Sproul, the Proficiency award, and Susan Cunningham, the record keeping trophy.



Rossanne Sproul (1977), receives Proficiency Trophy from leader Dwain Dibble.

The horse club had their Achievement Day along with the Agricultural Fair in August. Showmanship and Grooming went to Grant Gallagher, record keeping to Darcy Hunt, and Trail Riding to Janet Bornowsky.

The next year, Betty Ann Sproul became the Leader, and a handi-craft club was introduced under the leadership of Josephine Samuelson, for a total of 33 members. The handicraft club was involved in macrame and liquid embroidery, but also did many side projects. Their Achievement day was held on June the 8th. Evelyn Samuelson received the award for macrame and Sandra Quick, for liquid embroidery.

July the fourth was the beef club Achievement Day, and for the first time High Prairie came to Kinuso for an interclub show and sale. Dave Edwards showed the Grand and Maureen Sproul, the Reserve. Rossanne Sproul won the record-keeping and Proficiency trophies.

The Horse Club again had their Achievement Day with the Agricultural Fair. Terry Pasioka stole the show and won the Mike Tanasiuk trophy for Proficiency. This trophy was donated to the Light Horse Club by the Tanasuik family, in memory of their Father, and was available for the first time in 1978.

In 1978-79, three separate clubs were formed. The handi-craft club was changed to Foods and Leather. The Light Horse Club has gathered momentum with the help of James Erricson and Terry McIlldoon,



1977 Achievement Day in High Prairie.



1977 Float entered in the Kinuso parade, representing 60th Anniversary for 4-H movement.

while the Beef Club is slowly dying out.

These past three years 4-H has been very active, taking part in curling, highway clean-up, the Rodeo and Stock Show, the Skatathon, paper drives, trail rides, etc. Public speaking has been a major part of their program. In 1978, Maureen Sproul placed second for the Seniors, and Rossanne, second for the Juniors at the District Competitions in High Prairie. In 1979, Rossanne placed first for the Seniors, and Susan Cunningham, second for the Juniors, at the district competition in High Prairie. Rossanne participated in the Regionals in Grande Prairie, where she placed in the top four. These awards certainly speak highly of the Club's endeavours.

4H Achievement Day 1979

After a year of tender love and care, the "calves" sold at this summer's Kinuso 4H Sale looked more like bulls to anyone not familiar with cattle.

This year's Grand Champion, a Hereford-Charolais cross weighed in at 1,060 pounds on the hoof; all top notch grain-finished eating material. The calf was raised by Melanie McLaughlin of Kinuso.



Melanie McLaughlin of Kinuso with the Kinuso 4-H Club. Grand Champion calf 1979. Melanie raised the Hereford-Charolais cross herself before it was sold to two businessmen at the auction held last week.

Over two dozen bidders competed for the animals under the hammer of auctioneer Brian Nilsson of Clyde. Top price of \$1.15 per pound was paid by Barton's Drugs and Joe's Men's Wear for Melanie's animal. The Reserve Grand Champion, raised by Rossanne Sprowl, went to Nilsson Livestock for \$1.04 a pound. Other buyers included: Sawridge Hotel, G and L Logging, Bob Cunningham, Ken Sheldon Trucking, Westlock Feed, Gilliat Motors, and the Lakeside Leader.

Trophy sponsors were: Grand Champion — Vin Rice Hardware; Reserve Grand Champion — R. O. Jordan Imperial Bulk; and Showmanship — Carol's Confectionary. The latter trophy was also won by Melanie McLaughlin. Two other prizes were awarded: grooming to Wayne Cunningham, and rate of gain to Rossanne Sprowl.

Sales of the eight 4H animals and one champion calf netted the members of the Kinuso club almost \$8,000. The number of animals was down from last year, but the prices were roughly 30 percent higher.

Kinuso and District Senior Citizens Friendship Club

by D. Shantz.

Jan. 1973, Mrs. Louise Roe phoned by husband (Jack) and I asking us if we'd go to their place as June (Roe) had been reading something in a paper with reference to Senior Citizens, a Federal Grant under New Horizons was available to help set up "Drop Centres." Louise and Ernest (Roe), Jack and I talked it over with June, we thought it a wonderful idea, as

we have quite a number of Senior Citizens in this district. June volunteered to send for more information.

When the information was received we got together with Jean and Ed Quinn to decide what to do. A club had to be formed and have a certain amount of funds before we could qualify.

Senior Citizens around the district were notified and the first meeting called for March 11, 1973 at 2:30 p.m. in the Legion Club room, which the Legion offered free for all our meetings until we could get a place of our own. Fifteen people were present at this meeting. Ed. Quinn was elected unanimously as Chairman. Various aspects of Senior Citizens programs were discussed. The old Pool Hall was to be looked into, to either rent or buy.

March 24, 1973, meeting 30 attended. Mrs. Pearson chaired this meeting, and asked for nominations of Officers; Jean Quinn elected President, Ed. Quinn to remain as Chairman, Mrs. Louise Roe Sec-Treas. Seven members were elected to form Executive Committee. Age for members 55 years and up.

April 7, 1973. Suggested meeting to be held one day a week for now also every other week be Fun meeting. An anonymous donation of \$10.00 was given to Mrs. Pearson for the person choosing the best name for Senior Citizens Club.

April 21, 1973. Name suggestion box was opened, 5 or 6 names submitted, votes taken, entry by Mrs. Jean Quinn "Kinuso and District Senior Citizens Friendship Club" received most votes, Mrs. Pearson presented her with with \$10.00. Herb Church was one of the members present and remarked "Fancy having to write all that on letter headings." I've noticed since then quite a few Clubs have longer names than ours. We put on bingos once a month and raffles to acquire the funding required to apply for "New Horizons Grant." Also Teas and Bake Sales. June 25, 1973. Executive meeting. Grant forms were prepared by June Roe, passed and signed by 10 members. Forms sent to New Horizons. June informed us the Village was buying the old Pool Hall and suggested we look into the matter.

The following week 8 members together with Mayor Peter Czelenski, Francis Dow and June Roe



Ed Quinn and Doris Shantz with cheque from New Horizon for renovating the centre — 1973.

met at the Pool Hall. It was sure a sorry sight to see, inside walls torn down and rubbish everywhere, wondered if we could ever do anything with it. We got busy moving some of the rubble, measurements were taken and sketches drawn up as to where kitchen, washrooms, lounge and main part for games would be. Measured to see approx. how much insulation, wall board etc. would be needed; toilets, wash basins, kitchen cupboards, sinks etc. everything had to be itemized and approx. cost. When all this was worked out, a Requisition was sent to New Horizons on July 27.

The Town Council suggested going ahead with renovating Pool Hall and then if and when Grant was received we could re-imburse them. Renovation started in August 1973.

August, 11, 1973. Louise Roe resigned as Sec. Treas. Mrs. Jean Quinn was elected as Sec. and Mrs. Doris Shantz Treas.

Dec. 8, 1973, Christmas party, first gathering in building, 40 people present, exchange of gifts, bountiful pot luck meal, making use of dishes purchased earlier. Doris Hunt presented a 32 cup coffee urn, donated to us by Kinuso Legion Ladies auxiliary.

Special Meeting called Jan. 23, 1974. Regional Representative of "New Horizons" Mr. Don Mayne met with 20 members, he informed us Grant application had passed all phases and was now in Ottawa, we would be hearing of it probably by March. Mr. Mayne outlined many projects that could be taken on by our club.

March 30, 1974. Grant from New Horizons received by Pres. Ed. Quinn and was given to Treas. to be banked in separate account from other funds. A remaining \$1,000 would come later, when they found we were using the Grant as per requisition.

April 20, 1974. Mrs. Shantz gave report on Financial Statement from Town Council renovating Hall and was authorized to make payment from New Horizons fund to cover all improvements done on building for us, whilst waiting for Grant.

Aug. 14, 1974. Mr. Paul Sicotte New Horizons Representative attended meeting and urged we apply for balance of Government Grant immediately, he was well satisfied with our progress after looking over our finances, inspecting premises and interviewing the group.

Sept. 21, 1974. Balance of "New Horizons" Grant was received and handed to Treas. to bank. A radio in form of a schooner was presented to Senior Citizens by Ernie Merrier.

A large gathering came to the Senior Citizens Drop in Centre for the Official opening Nov. 28 1974, 3 P.M. to 8 P.M. Ribbon cutting Ceremony by Mayor Peter Czelenski, among those present were Mr. Don Mayne New Horizons Rep., Miss Nadia Korpus Culture Rep., our M.L.A. Larry Shaben and Mrs. Shaben. Lunch was served.

From May to first week in Sept. 1976 we were responsible for keeping the old Beach Campsite grounds clean, members went two or three times a week.

April 7, 1977. 17 members present at meeting. A

motion was made to call the new Senior Citizens Homes "M. E. Quinn Senior Citizens Homes" all were in favour of this.



Jean Quinn unveiling the Martin Quinn Senior Citizen Homes — 1978.

We arrange Funeral lunches for members and their immediate families that pass on.

Our meetings are the first Saturday each month. Last Saturday we celebrate members Birthdays, fun afternoon, members take turns making birthday cakes.

We have bingos in the Drop in Centre every Friday evening from first week in Sept. to last week in May.

Programme sponsored by Senior Citizens:

Opportunity for Youth Program.

Two Canada Works Programs, projects had to be worked out and estimated costs sent to Man Power for approval. This was to give employment to local people on Unemployment Insurance.

Now sponsoring "Swan River (Kinuso) History Book.

The History of the Martin E. Quinn Homes

Early in the 1970's the Senior Citizens of the Kinuso District under the leadership of Martin E. Quinn formed a Friendship Club.

Mr. Quinn, first president of this club, realized that as well as a central place to meet, some of our Senior Citizens needed apartments or homes where they could live out the last years of their lives, benefitting from modern conveniences while still retaining their dignity, by being able to keep house for themselves. These apartments need not be large just some place they could call their own.

Many meetings followed both with the local dignities and those from Alberta Housing Corporation in Edmonton. Unfortunately, Mr. Quinn never lived to see his dream homes come true. Meanwhile these meetings took several years.

The fall of 1976 the first sods were turned for foundations for what was to become six apartments or

as Alberta Housing calls them, Self-contained Units. Work progressed all that winter and early the next spring. March 1977, officials from Alberta Housing Corporation in Edmonton, turned the keys over to the Manageress of Kinuso Housing Authority for the now finished six self-contained units.

Yours truly, Donna Davignon, was installed as manageress.

Five of these units were filled by April 1, 1977. The sixth apartment remained vacant until July, 1977.

The first five tenants were:

Apartment number one — Mrs. Marie Sloan — Granny Sloan to her friends. Apartment number two — Mr. and Mrs. Hercel Sloan — who have since marked their 50th Anniversary while living in our apts.

Apartment number three — Allie Ramaker — our spry Dutch lady who beats every one else out of bed in the morning. She is reported to be out scrubbing her doorstep while the rest of us are eating our late breakfast.

Apartment number four — A. Posegate — who calls herself our Avon Ding Dong Lady.

Apartment number five — Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Roe — unfortunately Mr. Roe passed away the first month. Mrs. Roe remains with us.

Apartment number six — filled late by Mr. Hercel Stuck — who has since passed away of cancer.

Mrs. Gertrude Erricson now resides in this apartment. She is another of our spry old timers.

June 1978, the self contained units or apartments were officially opened and named after their founder.

On a sunny afternoon in June of 1978, Mrs. Martin E. Quinn, (Jean to her friends) unveiled a sign naming these apartments! The Martin E. Quinn Homes. Commemorating these homes in honour of Mr. Quinn who realized their need even in the early 1970's.

Mrs. Quinn was accompanied by her daughter Edna Speakman, and granddaughter Carmelia Speakman. Mrs. Quinn is editor of this book. We thank her and her late husband for their dedication to the community.



per: D. Davignon,
Manageress,
Martin E. Quinn Homes.

Central Slave Lake Agricultural Society

The Agricultural Society started in 1973 when its charter was obtained from the Department of Agriculture. Among the original group of organizers were: Gerry Doerkson, President; Glenn Sloan, Secretary-treasurer; Alfred Tanghe; Anton Kirtio; John Deren; and Ervin Sloan. Alfred Tanghe was elected President in 1975. That same year, Josephine Samuelson was elected Secretary-treasurer and has continued to hold that position. Anton Kirtio was elected to the office of President of 1976, a position which he has continued to hold since.

The main purpose of the Agricultural Society was to be the building of a multi-purpose complex which would house a curling rink and provide for other recreational activities. The old curling rink was beginning to deteriorate and only had natural ice which proved to be a problem during warm winters. It was at first decided that the complex would be built out of lumber. In order to have the necessary lumber the following group of volunteers logged and sawed 70,000 board feet of lumber in the spring of 1976.



John Karpa, Anton Kirtio, Steve Prichuk, Elvin Samuelson, Sloco McRee, Fred Tanghe. Sawing lumber for the Complex.

The volunteers were: Ron Beaupre, Sloco McRee, Ken Killeen, Elvin Samuelson, Ervin Sloan, Danny Sloan, Anton Kirtio, John Karpa, Steve Prichuk, Alfred Tanghe, Willie Tanasiuk, John Wasyluk, Leo Davignon, Billy Berezowsky, Zany McRee, Bill Prichuk, Charlie Prichuk, Ross Adams, Nick Tanasiuk, Tony Karpa, Ed Tanasiuk, Howard Tanasiuk, Marcel Beaupre, Margaret Irla, Francis Dow, Marianne Vandenburg, Lenny Lillo, and Joe Tanghe.

Grants for the erection of complexes became available from the Department of Agriculture and the Society officers decided to erect a steel building. The lumber already obtained could be used to help complete the interior. Another grant was obtained from I.D. 17 and donations came in from the Recreation Board and the Swan River Band. A L.I.P. grant and a Young Canada Works grant provided additional money for hiring workers. Various fund raising activities were also being carried out by members of the Society.

In March, 1977, Anton Kirtio, Nick Tanasiuk, Josephine and Elvin Samuelson went to the town of Elnora, Alberta to look at the steel building housing the complex there. This type of a building met with the approval of the Board of Directors and accordingly, the present building was purchased from Behlen-Wickes. The metal shell arrived in Kinuso in the summer of 1977. Immediately after the Fair in August, 1977, work was started on the foundations for the building by members of the Swan River Band who were Charley Chalifoux, Gordan Courtoreille, Ralph Davis, Gerald Davis, Bobby Sound, Lloyd Davis, Gene Davis, Lewis Sound and Frank Chalifoux.



Some of the men who worked on the Complex: Anton Kirtio, Dick Staples, Staples boy, Dean Dumont, Brian Muchinski, Ralph Davis, Francis Dow, Staples boy, Marcel Beaupre, Tony Karpa, Lawrence Dumont.

The shell of the building was put up late in 1977 and completed in the spring of 1978. Work on the inside of the building started in September of 1978. The building was opened for the first season of curling January 10, 1979 with three sheets of artificial ice. The enthusiasm of the curlers was not just for the time which they spent on the ice, but was also matched by donations of time and labor. Their support meant that this first season was a success both recreationally and financially. Along with regular curling and bonspiels, special bonspiels such as the following were included: Little Skeeters for children under 14 years of age; 4-H; Loggers; and Town and



Agriculture Complex taken from south showing power plant building.



Steve Prichuk's sawmill and logs at Eula Creek.

Country.

Different activities of the Society have been: Fund raising: Socials such as Ukrainian, steak, Chinese, Christmas, among others. Bingos and raffles have also been held. The Society has sponsored the 4-H, a Farmers' Market and educational programs for agricultural purposes. Agricultural Fairs have been held each August since 1976. These have included such events as horticultural exhibits, livestock, light horse and pet shows, arts and crafts, fun challenge events, ball games, dances, live entertainment, concession booths, old-time fiddling contest, parade and fireworks. The Fair is put on with volunteer help and a Farmers' market is held in conjunction with the Fair. There is no admission charge to enter the Fair grounds and many people take advantage of the chance for an outing and a visit with their neighbors and friends. Each year the Fair has grown larger than the one the year before. The Society is hoping to make the theme for the Fair to be held in 1980 that of a Homecoming Reunion.

When the complex is fully completed it will house a three-sheet artificial ice curling rink and when the

surface is not being used for curling; tennis court, badminton court, horticultural and agricultural shows. In the rest of the building will be the lobby and viewing area, bathrooms, kitchen, furnace room, banquet room, lounge, dance hall, public library and storage rooms.

The present size is 253 feet by 50 feet. It is hoped to add another 50 feet to the length. This complex will, when completed, serve the needs of the whole community.



Agriculture Complex showing east end.

The Agriculture Society has received many generous donations of work, money and materials from local citizens and businesses and from the surrounding communities especially Slave Lake, Canyon Creek, Faust, Driftpile, High Prairie and Jousard.

Swan Valley Sodbusters Fastball Team

A men's fastball team was organized in 1972, coached by Ervin Sloan and managed by Bruce Sims, taking part in tournament games the first year.

The following year the ball team was officially named the "Swan Valley Sodbusters".



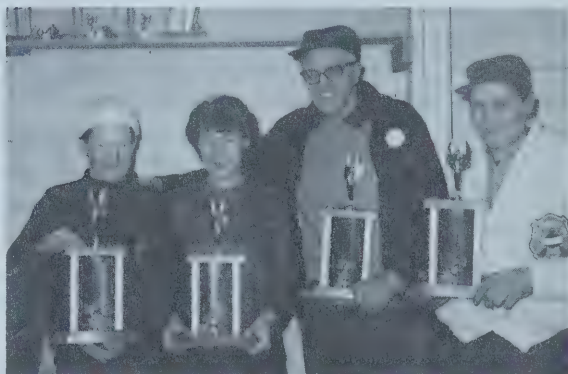
Swan Valley Sodbusters; back left to right: Gary Davis, Marshall Sloan, Ervin Sloan, Dan Schmode, John McLevin, Dick Sloan, Ed Robinson, Jim Robinson. Front left to right: Oren Roe, Ron Hunt, Danny Sloan, Buzz Tanghe, Blair Hunt, Ken Sheldon.

They have played in the Slave Lake Men's Fastball League and competed in local tournaments since 1975.

Players are Ron Hunt, Ed. Robinson, Marshall Sloan, Gary Davis, Dan Sloan, Ken Sheldon, Dick Sloan, David Sloan, Bob Robinson, Howard Tanghe, Dan Schmode, Oren Roe, Gordon Cook, John McLevin, Tom Hunt, Louis Chasse', Dan Schmode Jr., Blair Hunt, Jim Robinson, Bruce Roe, Harold Evenson, Ricky Stasow, Dwain Hill, and Cliff Hunt.



Left to right, Front: Henry Brulotte, Reg Croad — Coach, Donald Eckardt — Mascot, Manny Roe, Jack Misco S.S., Ken Stevenson, Cliff Eckardt — 1st base.



Kinuso Rink — Ken Beaupre, Rema Sloan, Bill Bannister, John Czelenski.



The Kinuso Blues — 1978.
Back left to right: Brian Chalifoux, Doug Beaupre, Dale Locke, Peter Sound. Middle left to right: Preston Sound, Robbie Cundal, Terry Dow, Leon Chalifoux, Kelly Quick. Front left to right: Marcel Abel, Dough Hunt, Ernie Samuelson, Sherry Abel, Carl McRee, Dion Klyne, Trevor Lochanski.



1949 — Left to right: Cliff Eckardt, Leo Boisvert, Geo Stevens, Steve Winters, Earl Antonson, Vin Rice, Russ Gillett, Jack Miscow.

Kinuso Branch Canadian Legion #188

The Kinuso Branch of the Canadian Legion #188 was formed in June of 1946. Mr. Dave Myron, a veteran of World War I swore in the slate of officers. Doug McLaughlin was the first President, Cliff Eckardt was Vice President and Marvin Lillo was Sec-treasurer. The original charter members totalled approximately 30 but within a few years the branch grew to almost 60 members, including from Kinuso to Wagner comprising of World War I and World War II veterans.

The Branch held it's meetings for the first few years where ever they could find a place and soon decided that the community could use a new and larger community hall. In 1947, with a 68¢ debit balance in the treasury a motion was made to commence construction of a new hall. The main event of the year for the branch was on November 11th with a Remembrance Day service in the morning followed by a banquet and a blow out in the evening. For the first year a kiddies party and show was held in the afternoon in the U.F.A. Hall . . a stag smoker at nite. In 1948 the first Legion Banquet was held in the Kinuso Hotel and being squeezed in added to the sociability and possibly set the theme for a gala event for many years to follow. From that banquet the members and their ladies proceeded to the first dance or event to be held in the new Legion Hall. The cracks were covered with tar paper and two cord wood burning heaters going full blast on a brisk winters nite kept the spirits warm . . .

The Legion Hall was a result of much community



1979 — Legion Hall built after World War II by Veterans.

cooperation; extended credit from the local businesses, cash loans from the members, donated labor from many of the local citizens and tireless efforts of the Legion members in fund raising, planning and construction of the building.

The next project the branch had in mind was to provide the community with a theatre exhibiting modern and new shows with standard 35mm projectors. To finance this meant a second loan from it's members. Through many adversities and obstacles the Legion Theatre came to realization with the first show and opening on November 2, 1950.

The success of this project would not have been possible at this time except for the hard work and devotion of the ladies. To enable the branch to meet its financial obligations the ladies formed "The Legion Wives" who operated the popcorn concession with the express purpose of bolstering the branch finances. Time and hard work relieved many of the financial pressures and the ladies formed the Ladies Auxiliary, giving them a much more meaningful and interesting program than just popping corn.

It was around 1959 when the branch extended their hall with a thirty foot addition making it now 36 feet x 100 feet and also built in a sloped floor with theatre seats. In 1964 a Legion Club Room was completed containing kitchen and washrooms.

The theatre business was very successful and enabled the Legion to contribute to many community projects as well as sponsor Scouts, Guides, Cubs and Brownies. All went very well until 1966 in the theatre business then television came and the financial picture began to deteriorate. On December 20th, 1974 the last picture show was run leaving the branches income dependent on hall rentals alone, but it was great while it lasted. The Branch is still active and managing the hall as a community service. Many of the original members have left the area or passed on but the Branch has been able to recruit honorary members, this along with the cooperation of the Ladie's Auxiliary the Kinuso Branch of the Canadian Legion #188 is still active.

A Happy Home Recipe

4 cups love	5 cups hope
2 cups loyalty	2 spoons of tenderness
3 cups of forgiveness	4 qts. of faith
1 cup of friendship	1 barrel of laughter

Take love and loyalty, mix with faith.

Blend it with tenderness, kindness and understanding.

Add friendship and hope, sprinkle abundantly with laughter.

Bake it with sunshine.

Serve daily with generous helpings.

Jokes

Just a Thought

Let no one say, and say it to your shame,
That all was beauty here, until you came.

Chapter Ten

Industries



The First Butcher Shop

in Kinuso Known as Swan River

The first fresh meat was probably sold over the counter in Harry Walker's store in the early days around 1919-20. The farmers butchered their beef and pork, brought it in to the store and Harry Walker bought it from them. He then cut it up and sold it to his customers.

At first he had an old chopping block, about three feet high and around two and half to three feet across, cut from a native tree; I believe it was balm. He had a

counter in front of this block where he wrapped the meat. It was nothing to see him drop a quarter of beef on that "old block", and cut it up. He'd cut pork chops or beef steaks while you waited. There was no fancy Saran Wrap or Stretch and Seal to wrap the meat in, just good old brown paper.

In 1925, Angus McDonald who had been working on the railroad came to Kinuso to live. (He married Kae Lyness). He saw a need for fresh meat for the railroad crews and lumber camps in the area. He started buying and butchering local beef for this purpose.

Meanwhile, a dirt road was built to the community of Faust. Angus commenced supplying the residents there with meat, driving the twisting trail twice a week with a team of horses and democrat. Thus started the first "Meat Market" in the Lake area. Kate's son, and Angus's step-son did the butchering and over the counter sales. The meat was kept cool with the use of ice, cut from the lake in the winter, and stored in an ice house for summer use.

By 1936, the business was extended to Canyon Creek, Widewater, and Slave Lake, with Richard driving an old touring car to deliver the meat in. Then in 1937, they bought a brand new Chevy truck and painted a sign on it, calling it "Kinuso's Meat Market." Thus started the first butcher shop.

When World War II broke out, Richard, like all the other young men of the district, joined up. Angus continued with the "meat business" and by this time had built a little shop over beside his home on the west side of town and sold most of his meat from there. Finding the business too much work by himself, Angus found a man by the name of Bill Willisroft. They worked together for a year or so, then Bill ran a business of his own. This, Richard tells me, was in 1942 and 1943. At this time, pork chops were 25¢ a pound, and beef steak even less; liver was free.

In April 1945, Angus McDonald died in an Edmonton hospital after surgery, leaving the shop with no one to run it.

When Richard returned from the war he carried on the business as he had done before the War until he built the present "Meat Market" as it is today.

The present premises were opened in the spring of 1948.

Coal Mine

by Leo Lillo



Coal — Mine Creek. There is an abandoned mine up this creek.

The first man who found the coal-mine was Oscar Lillo. Oscar's brother Herman was very interested in this coal, they went and looked it over and gave up.

Then John Reeves cut the road into this coal-mine country. There he stayed for two years or so and built a cabin in there. He tried to develop this coal, but it didn't seem to pan out, so he gave it up. Later one Bajer went there and took out some coal.

This old coal-mine is a mile or so up Coal-mine Creek-re-picture.

"Kinuso Lumber Industry"

by Steve Prichuk and Bill Roffey

With vast stands of prime spruce timber in the Kinuso area, and Imperial Lumber having a fair size quota, the Company began the construction of a planing complex in the Village in 1947. It was being built just north of the railroad tracks and was to be in operation for a minimum of 20 years.

Roy Creswell, Superintendent of Construction for Imperial Lumber, supervised the construction of the mill as well as helping with the building of the complex.

Bill Roffey, a local farmer here, who prior to coming to Kinuso in 1938, had been employed in the lumbering at Spurfield for eleven years had quite a bit of experience. So Bill was hired to lay pile bottoms where lumber was to be piled, just north of the tracks on reserve land that the Company had leased. Bill was more or less in charge of the lumber yard and also helped in the construction of the mill.

Doug McLaughlin was appointed as Operations Manager, being in charge of the whole layout.



Cutting logs and bringing to Roy Field's mill in the Eula Creek District.

The first winter the small mills just starting out produced only 3 million board feet of lumber. Many of the logs cut were done with a crosscut saw and skidded by horses to the mill. Power saws at that time were over \$300.00 and weighed about sixty pounds, and if you got 65¢ an hour you were lucky.

Planing of the lumber had now started. The lumber after leaving the planer came over on a trimmer chain where it was trimmed by 2 saws, then graded and piled on dollies. This was awkward as the planks

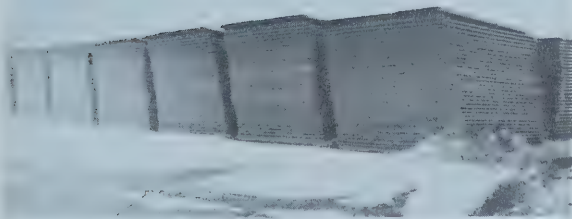


Bill Sowan piling lumber for Imperial Lumber — 1949.



March 1950 at Rodney's Camp. Charlie Magnus and Harry Adams.

had to be given a half turn to put on the dollies. You had to stand along the edge of the platform, 8 ft. from the ground. If a person lost his balance he could fall off and break his neck! After a time this platform was widened out, making it safer. From here the lumber was loaded in boxcars where most of it was shipped to the United States.



Imperial lumber piles — 1948-49.

With much of the lumber not being trimmed at the bush mills, many problems arose at the planer, jamming it up at times. The sawmill operators had their problems too, as they had to sort all the lumber. Every truck load had to be of one size 2x4, 2x6, 1x8 etc. This took up lots of space, the bush was hard to clear with small cats, and some mills had no cats at all.

So, the only solution was for Imperial Lumber to build a green chain, then the mill operators could put

all sizes of lumber on the same truck loads.



The Green Chain for Imperial Mill in Kinuso — 1948-49.

Land was leased from Charlie Cline's farm, ½ miles south of town, and the green chain would be built there with room to spare.

Roy Creswell asked Steve Prichuk to help with the construction of the chain. Later Frank LaRoque, second planer man, helped on the finishing work.

The operation of the green chain employed approximately fifteen men, and the lumber trimming, sorting, and grading was done faster. But after a year of operation, it was still unsatisfactory, hauling the lumber a mile and a half by tractors and wagons to the planer.

The green chain was dismantled and moved close to the planer where another piece of land was leased from the reserve and cleared. The green chain was re-designed to speed things up, as now they were processing over 15 million board feet of lumber per season.

Don Roffey did the checking most of the time, with Don Klyne doing the grading for several years.

Fred Labby and Ed Anderson used their teams of horses to haul sloop loads of lumber from the green chain to the lumber yard where it was dry piled by hand. Later on tractors were used to help move the lumber from chain to yard.

With more and more lumber coming in, it was necessary to re-model the green chain again. Lumber would be piled in bundles and a fork lift picked up the 4 ft. bundles and stacked them in the yard. Now they took in as much as 26 million board feet of lumber in one winters cut.



Rogne's Sawmill — 1950.



Charlie Magnus — Cat used in his logging.

Some of the sawmill operators were: Gib Rogne, Cecil Mack, Ross Davis, Charlie Magnus, Leo Revit, Jack Kaychuk, Wallace and Thorsal, Zelinski Mills, Frank Madson, Livingston Bros., Jim Bergion, Myron Elefson, Sam Bergores, and Alex Antipowich.

Ben Solam was the first planer man when the mill went into operation. Frank LaRoque was assistant planer man, also helped quite a bit around the green chain for the first few years. He left here for about a year, then returned and stayed with the Company until the planer mill closed.



Imperial Mill in Kinuso.

Several other men were hired as planer operators when it became necessary to run two shifts. Lloyd Woods, Joe Moyan, Alvin Lillo were ones I recall. Don Wilton was the mechanic and stayed with the Company until it closed down. Other names of employees I recall were: Mr. Parker (whose wife taught school here), Walter Dables, Jim Gunn, Gerald Potter who was the bookkeeper, Frank Posegate who kept the trimmer blocks clear of the greenchain. These blocks were sold to the townspeople for firewood.

When Doug McLaughlin left the Manager position, Bob Love was put in charge. He was followed by Norman Hushagen and Mike Mazar. Mike took over in 1962, and stayed with the Company until it closed down in 1969. Later on it was dismantled and moved to Grande Prairie where Imperial Lumber also had a mill. Some of the employees from here moved to Grande Prairie. Among them were Mike Mazar, Frank LaRoque, Don Wilton, and others whose names I can't recall. Norman Hushagen, Lloyd Woods, and Gerald Potter, transferred to Topley

B.C., where Imperial Lumber had purchased the Quality Spruce and Lumber Company. That mill put out about 30 million board feet per year. When it burned down, Norman Hushagen went to Edmonton and worked in Imperial offices there. Lloyd Woods and Gerald Potter found employment in a mill at nearby Burns Lake. But Gerald later moved to Chetwynd B.C. From there he took on the re-construction job of a bankrupt mill in Watson Lake, Yukon. When it was on its feet again, he went into business with a partner making and selling core sample boxes for the various mines in that area. Later Gerald sold out his share to his partner and purchased land for a trailer court which he still operates as well as selling new and used trailers.

Bill Roffey remained as yard foreman throughout all the years with the Company, returning happily to his farm when the mill closed, where he resides to this day.



A Sawmill north of town, owned by C.R. Field and Sons. Situated on Labby's land.



The biggest load of lumber hauled out of Field's sawmill. Frank Dewis driving a 4-up of horses. Standing — Arthur, Ronald, and "The Boss" C.R. Fields.



Charlie Magnus' Lumber Truck.



Logging in Kinuso. Betty Tanghe standing.



Sawing lumber for Agricultural Complex.



Mr. Amos Rand's Sawmill.



The Sawmill south of town owned by C.R. Field and Sons later burned down. Bruce Hunter and Mary Field on load.

Swan River (Kinuso) Forestry

written by Glen Sloan

After checking back with some of the old timers, I have come up with the following information.

A man by the name of "Casey Jones", was the first "Ranger" anyone can remember. He was here in 1914, but it is not known how long previous to this date he was in Kinuso.



Log pile at Casey McLaughlin's. Roy Fields' Mill.



Fred Tanghe and Pete Sloan's sawmill south of Driftpile.



House Mountain Tower.

After Casey Jones, came a man by the name of "Lou Evoie". It cannot be determined when the change came, but Mr. Evoie was Ranger until approximately 1917.



Giving service to Tower men. Pat and Albert Foley taking food to Tower men.

"Albert Foley", became Ranger in charge, after Mr. Evoie. At this time, the Forestry had some trails established and were in the process of clearing more. Towers also came into use around that time, and three towers were built in the Kinuso area, these being "Deer Mountain, House Mountain, and Grizzly Mountain". The original Grizzly Tower and cabin are still standing. This tower has not been in use for the last 50 years. Much of the Ranger's time was spent maintaining trails and phone lines that were built into these towers.



Fixing telephone lines on way to House Mountain, line from tree to tree.



Grizzly Tower 1939.

The suppression of large fires in isolated areas was a difficult task at that time. Horses and walking were the only means of transportation and therefore it could take days to even get to a fire. "Hand tools" were the only means of suppressing these fires. Man power was also limited which created further problems.



Albert Foley and crew fording a river in the Swan Hills working for Forestry.

Up to the year 1916, the Forest Protection Branch was administered by the Federal Government. Then, at that time, it was turned over to the Province.

Mr. Foley remained in charge from 1916 - 1943. Mr. Bill Lisk took over in 1943, but moved on in 1944. It was around this time that "bulldozers" were first used in fire suppression in this area. They were a valuable asset in fire suppression as they could build lines much faster than men with hand tools.

Some other people who worked for the Forestry prior to 1940 were: Kurt McKinley, Mons Ekanger, Jimmy Sutherland, Harry Wileman, and Dick Bowen. The dates and length of time these men worked is unknown.

From 1944 to the present time, the following people were in charge:

- 1944 - 1947 Jack Churchill
- 1947 - 1950 Harper Morden
- 1950 - 1952 Ross Davis
- 1952 - 1959 Pat Foley
- 1959 - 1965 Howard Morgeau
- 1965 - present Glen Sloan



Pat Foley and Leo Roe, Pack horses for Forestry.

During the 1950's, aircraft came into use for fire suppression in this area. Helicopters, water bombers, and patrol planes were a great asset to fire protection.

In approximately 1965, the Forest Service started the centralizing program. A centralizing program is where 2 or more districts are joined together to make a larger district. The Kinuso and Faust districts were amalgamated to make one large area.



New Forestry building half mile south of the town of Kinuso.

At present we have a staff of 5 Rangers and a part-time secretary. During times of high fire hazard, we also have a stand-by crew on duty. There is a bomber group stationed in Slave Lake most of the time, as well as a helicopter.

PERSONNEL WHO HAVE WORKED FOR THE ALBERTA FOREST SERVICE SINCE 1940

Bob Walsh	Bernie Brouwer
Raymond Sloan	Barry Congram
Sandy Donaldson	Joe Smith
Mag Stiestol	Herk Sutherland
Wally Walton	Kieth Kyske
Dave Laing	Brock Allen
Carl Duccamun	Bob Welch
Lou Foley	Jim Skrenek
Ray Kysitski	Stan Olszowka
John McLevin	

PRESENT STAFF

Glen H. Sloan
Gary G. Davis
Lloyd Seedhouse
Gordon Cook
Dale Asselin

The Forestry and Men Who Worked For It

Curt McKinley came here in 1913 and filed on W $\frac{1}{2}$ -17-73-9-W5TH, which is North of Highway #2 by Eula Creek; since owned by D. S. McLaughlin and now, in 1978, owned by the McLaughlin Bros. Curt, after service in World War 1, joined the Slave Lake Forestry and was one of the Rangers for several years.



Terrace McRee at Chalmers Cabin, 1954. Used as stopover by Forestry and hunters.

He patrolled on horse-back leading one or two pack horses, packed with bed rolls and supplies for a month. His route was from the Swan River Forestry Station in the southern end of the valley to Whitecourt over Deer Mountain and in the vicinity of where the present town of Swan Hills is situated. This route was between 80-90 miles in area. He also patrolled what was known as the North Boundary Trail which would bring him out near Sunset House and Valleyview. When he retired he lived for a time on his farm and then various places near by. Look under story of Curt McKinley.



Swan Valley Ranger Station.

1920 — The route from Swan River Station to Whitecourt was also rode by another ranger, Harry Wileman, who had come from England in the early 20's. Harry married a local girl, Virginia Sloan and later they were transferred by the Forestry Department to Southern Alberta, where Harry met with a fatal accident.

Another ranger not to be forgotten is Mons



Mons Ekanger, while he worked for the forestry, in 1918-1920.

Eckanger, who also served with Forestry for several years and patrolled many of the routes in Swan Hills Territory. He married a local girl, Inga Lunseth. One daughter, Marjory, was born to them. After Mons left the Forestry, they moved to New Westminster, B.C., where they resided until Mons' death.



Jim Sutherland while working for Forestry.

For several years, Jimmie Sutherland was with the Forestry. His route was to the east of Deer Mountain and he rode this for four or five years. He was a soldier in World War I. After the close of the war, he came west to work for Mr. and Mrs. Hawkey on their farm, but this proved to be a mistake as there was no money to be made on the farm at this time. Being a returned man, he was able to get a job with the forestry. He stayed at this till 1928, when he took up land of his own. In 1928, he married Vera Whitecotton, who was a local girl. Together they made their home on the land he had homesteaded. The land had previously belonged to the Cook brothers, Bob and Vern. Jimmie passed away in 1936 after an illness of eight years from War disabilities.

Of course, the Chief Forest Ranger, Mr. Albert Foley, who resided for many years in the Swan River Forestry Station from 1915-1943 deserves honorable mention. He was well liked and respected by all his employees and spent many, many, tiring, gruelling hours out on duty with a crew of fire-fighters, surveyors or accompanying tower men to their posts in various look-out towers. This alone was no easy jaunt as at times the rivers and creeks would be bank high,



House Mountain Tower. Leo Roe, Billy Shoop, Clarence Shoop.

making a delay of a few days. Also swamps and bogs would be flooded so detours (if possible) would have to be made. Most of these trips would be made on horseback, with pack horses. Mr. Foley would be away from his wife and family of three children; Pat (deceased now), Lou (who lost his life in World War II), and Agnes (Mrs. Bill Wilson, of Dunstable, Alta.), for many days at a time and sometimes a month.

Mr. Foley lost his life in a fatal accident while returning home from Edmonton by train, in 1943.

It was after Mr. Foley's death that the use of swamp buggies, power wagons and jeeps were brought into service. The last few years, a big step in the improvement of travel was reached due to a network of oil roads being built in Forest Reserve, nearly all being gravelled, making it possible for the latest of cars to travel with ease. Now there is not so much walking and packing of equipment necessary to reach most points.

Trees

There is an avenue of pretty trees along the Art John's place, nearly standing on the main road.

These trees were very young saplings when Art Johns fenced his homestead, and so he used them as posts to nail the wire to. In this way he did not have to cut them down.

When the road was graded, thanks to Doug McLaughlin who was District Engineer at that time, he left these trees as a sort of land mark for the community. Steve Prichuk first graded the road.

J. C. Hunt told Doug that when he first came to the Valley, he pitched his tent beside them, and Harry Walker is supposed to have camped with his tent of groceries beside them, when he first sold groceries to the pioneers of Swan River Valley, before moving down to the crossing by the tracks.

Although the road has changed, the trees are still standing in 1979.

* * * * *

There is also a row of spruce trees still standing in front of the present Post Office. These trees were planted by Matt Whitecotton and Vera in 1920. Many times it seemed that these trees had met their fate, but somehow they were let stand. They are probably some of the tallest trees in the community.

Farming in the Swan River Valley — 1907 - 1977

It is not the intention in this article to relate the accomplishments or experiences of individuals as we trust these will be related in individual family histories; but merely to give a broad outline of the progress and changes in agriculture through the years.

The first settlers in the Swan River valley came as farmers, and agriculture has been the mainstay of our economy since that time.

As in most northern frontier areas, mixed farming was a necessity for survival with livestock production dominant. The Hunt family brought twenty four head of cattle in 1907, and the Jesse Sloan family acquired cattle soon after settling. The first hogs were obtained at Grouard and after some initial problems with goiter due to lack of iodine they became an important part of livestock production.



Scotty McNeil and Edgar Hill with vegetable collection grown in Kinuso.

Prior to 1914 and the railway link to the outside, the principal market for produce was Grouard, where there was a ready sale for potatoes and vegetables as well as for grain and dairy products. During the railroad construction years, demand for hay and grain was very good.



Matt Whitecotton, notice 1 ft. ruler on potatoes.

Machinery brought in by the first settlers was limited to the basics due to transportation, and consisted of wagons, sleighs, plows and discs, mowers and rakes. Several of the earliest settlers used oxen

for breaking their land even though they had horses. Oxen were also used as freight teams.



1915, Jean Moore (Quinn) and Peter Thomson with team of oxen.

Although the first crop of grain was threshed by trampling by horses with the chaff being separated by fanning mill, a threshing machine was soon freighted in from Edmonton. This machine, brought in by J. C. Hunt, was a "MOODY"; made in Quebec; hand fed with no straw blower and powered by an 8 H.P. gasoline engine. Both units were on skids and were transported from job to job by horse power. Grain was stacked so this one machine could service the entire settlement. Wilfred Hunt relates that he once had a threshing run of fifty-two days with this machine.



1935, Mike and Fred Prichuk's threshing outfit.

Off farm employment was a necessity then as now. Freighting was the principle winter occupation for those with teams. Fishing and trapping were other side lines, and with railroad construction came "tie hacking" and cutting telegraph poles.

With the coming of the "steel," all remaining land bordering the Swan River was soon homesteaded, with a family on each quarter section. The outside markets now became available for all produce. Without elevator facilities, few farmers had sufficient grain for carlot shipment of any one variety, so the local merchants played an important role in assembling and shipping grain. Both H. W. Walker and W. V. Rice had platform scales outside their establishments for weighing grain and hay.

Rail service also brought a change to type of production, with the milk cow becoming the steady cash earner. Cream was shipped to Edmonton dairies in

three or five gallon cans depending on the size of the herd. Shipment was once weekly at first, via express car, with the dairies deducting the shipping charges. On shipping days one could see dozens of these cans lined on the railroad platform. Without refrigeration, keeping the cream for a week without souring was a real problem. Sour cream was discounted in price so this was financially important. The milking herd also encouraged greater hog production. How better to utilize the skimmed milk, than feeding hogs.

Beef production, with a few exceptions, was from the dairy herd, and resulted in a rather poor quality beef animal. This, I expect, was the case in nearly all of northern Alberta, resulting in cattle shipped being classified as poor quality northern regardless of how good it might actually be.



Cattle drive in 1923 to the stockyards in Kinuso for shipping Geo Moore's cattle.

Shipment of cattle and hogs was by stock train, which ran on a weekly basis. Farmers pooled their shipments in one car, with one farmer being permitted to accompany the shipment to Edmonton to arrange the disposal to one of the commission agents operating there. Hogs were usually sold directly to the packers.

Although several farmers acquired threshing outfits with tractor power soon after railway construction, much of the harvest was still stacked and threshing done from the stack when a machine became available. Use of tractor power for cultivation was rare until well into the thirties. As more machines became available, stook threshing became the accepted way of harvesting.



Stooking grain at Mike Prichuk's.



Harry McRee at threshing time.



Steve Prichuk, Eugene Erricson, Pete Prichuk, threshing grain on Erricson's farm — 1948.

Hay production was totally by horse and man power, and stacking methods were as varied as inventive ability and finances would allow. Probably the most efficient was by overshot stacker and buck rake.



August Sound on his Mowing machine — 1937.

A crew of four with five horses could rake and stack ten tons in three hours from heavy stands of grass, such as grew on lake shore meadows.

Not much can be written of the thirties, except that we survived. No doubt individual histories will relate some of the "horror stories" of livestock and other produce being shipped to market where the total sell-



Mr. and Mrs. Geo Cornell and girls. Dad is on the hay stack, Mother kneeling with her little girls — Elisabeth and Ruth.

ing price would not pay the freight. One trend of importance did occur during the thirties. Homesteads were established on bush land previously vacant, and the clearing of these began the expansion of the land base.



1942, making use of 1926 Dodge touring car to pull up hay.



Casey McLaughlin on sweep rake, pushing hay to a stack at Sangster's farm.

In the late thirties Midland Pacific constructed an elevator at Kinuso which greatly facilitated the disposal of grain crops. This led to a marked expansion of grain acreage and with the price improvements in the early forties still more land was brought into production.

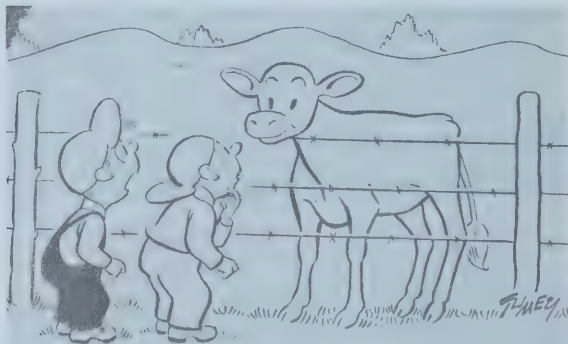
During the late forties, swathers and combines were introduced to the area. Grain production be-



Harry McRee's Sons, after 30 years of farming, they threshed like this with 3 combines.

came more important, with a gradual decline in the milking herds and a conversion to beef cattle. The highway to Edmonton had been gravelled during the war years so shipment of cattle and hogs was now made by truck. The decline in the milking herd was also paralleled by a decline in hog production.

By the early fifties tractors had almost totally replaced horses as farm power. Combine harvesting from the swath became common. It can be argued that this method of harvest was unsuited to our local climate, and was probably the principal reason for the gradual decline in grain acreage with a corresponding further decline in hog production and a swing to pasture, hay, and beef herds.



"I don't know what he's made of, but Pop says he's artificial."

Power mowers and balers had also become common during the early fifties and were a curse or a blessing depending on one's outlook. Production per man hour went way up, but the end product often left much to be desired. One farmer remarked that those bales doubled in weight when they hit the ground, and picking them up became real work.

Rapeseed growing had been introduced during the early fifties and gradually took its place with the traditional wheat, oats and barley as a cash crop. Also during this period of time the land base was greatly expanded due to the use of bulldozers for clearing.

Meadow land along the lake shore was broken and cropped. Grain production reached an all time high in the valley.



Fred Prichuk with pure bred Government Bull (Angus).



Ron Saitz dehorning steers.



George and Norman Hunt branding cattle.

During the sixties there was a marked increase in the number of beef cattle and a decrease in grain production as the available land became utilized for

pasture and hay. The milking herd had disappeared with hog production following a downward trend.

Late in the decade artificial insemination of cattle was introduced to the area by Dale McLaughlin. This made it possible to introduce various European beef breeds. Several others have now followed his lead with the result that we have experienced a general up grading in quality through cross breeding.



"Lady Luck" George Sheldon's cow with her registered Hereford twin calves.

The decade of the seventies commenced on a high note for the beef producer and on a low for those still engaged in grain production. However, as is usual in agriculture this quickly reversed and we have seen in recent years probably one of the most difficult times, when all economic factors are considered, that the industry has ever experienced.



A herd of cattle in the Eula Creek area. Owners — McLaughlin Bros.

As the decade draws to a close, no one would venture to predict what the future holds in store, but in this community we can be certain that agriculture will play an important role in our economy. Regardless of changes in economics or policies the desire to own and till the land remains constant and we can rest assured that these acres that we and our forefathers have developed will remain as a monument for all time.



1974, Jim Sheldon feeding his cattle.



1927, butchering Geo Moore's pig weighing 494 lbs. John Noortwuck standing.



Wood sawing with buzz saw at Fred Prichuk's.



Fred Labby and Howard Posey's teams.



1942, Bill Winters binding grain, using a John Deere Binder.



Brent Sheldon with his pet calf.



1943, Charlie Magnus plowing on his farm.



Threshing at Eula Creek. Prichuk's threshing outfit.



Mr. Geo Moore and Edna Speakman (Quinn) cutting ice.



Neva, Ole and Peggy Watson. Mrs. Tom Sloan — Corky and Doreen.



Steve Prichuk's farm home at Eula Creek.



George and Norman Hunt dehorning cattle.



Harry McRee, breaking land on their farm.



Sophie McRee. When she wanted milk she would catch her cow and sit down and milk some milk and drink it.



Harry and Joe McRee with their sawing outfit. Sawing wood.



1938, Charlie Magnus stacking hay.



Harry McRee and boys baling hay.



Charlie Magnus' Stud Horse.



Charlie Magnus' main team of horses. 1800 lbs.



1948, Joe Bornowsky bringing in a big load of oats.



1938, Charlie Magnus moving hay on a sloop, stack 20 by 14 ft.



1928, Geo Moore on his tractor pulling his binder, Walter Johnson on the binder.



Bert and Scotty McNeil and Doreen (Kusch) Hunt binding grain.



Berger Lind and his goats.



August Sound fencing on his farm in 1937.



Jackie Killeen trimming horses' feet.



Stan Sheldon hauling hay from Charlie Magnus' at Eula Creek.

Mink Ranching in the Kinuso Area 1939-1969

by Marvin Lillo

The rearing of fur bearing animals in captivity was of interest to trappers and part time trappers in the area from the early twenties, but did not become a part of the economic endeavor until the late thirties when mink ranching became quite widespread in the lakeshore communities of Faust and Canyon Creek-Widewater. Breeding stock has become readily available and husbandry practices had gradually improved.

The first attempts at rearing mink by Kinuso area residents was on such a small scale to be totally unenomic, but it did serve to create interest, and with improved prices for pelts during the war years,

several small enterprises were established, of which the Dewar and Lillo ranches grew to reasonable sizes.

With wars end interest grew, due to improved availability of feed and also a bouyant economic outlook. Also the introduction of various colored mutations such as white, silver blue, and black cross at this time created a great deal of interest due to their high value relative to the standard dark mink. There was also the interesting, although uneconomic practise of cross breeding with the hope of developing yet another color phase with which to hit the cash jackpot. This usually resulted in an off color cross worth less then either of the parent stock. The expansion of the industry in the whole lake area was rapid, with new ranches being started and established ranches expanding to greater production.



Stan Sheldon, holding one of his mink.

By the late fifties there were eight ranches operating in the Kinuso area with a total production of six to seven thousand pelts per year. In dollar value this production represented \$90,000 to \$110,000 per year to the local economy. During this period there was such a proliferation of color phases that it became difficult to decide which would catch the fancy of the fashion world and so bring the greatest return, but by the early sixties the trade had gone full circle, with the standard dark again the favored fur.

The "beginning of the end" for the mink ranching industry occured when inflation became a problem in

the general economy. With the higher costs for capital and labor the fur trade drastically reduced prices paid to the producer to the extent that by 1969 all ranches in the Kinuso area had ceased to operate.

In retrospect, one can only say that it was interesting while it lasted and regret that it could not have remained a continuing part of our economy.

FOR SALE — BLUE RIVER MINK FLESHING MACHINE
EXCELLENT CONDITION***CHEAP**
CONTACT ANY EX MINK RANCHER

"Trucking"

"In the Kinuso Area"

Roads to Edmonton improved, and a "Truck Service" was started. The first truck was owned and operated by Gus Buholzer. He would pick up stock in the surrounding area, and deliver them to the Edmonton Stockyards, and return with a load of goods to be delivered to various businesses and people.

Business grew and other truckers started doing the same. Arend Kool set up a business and operated a trucking business for several years.

Tom Grono, also started, but later sold to Harry Yarosh, in 1947.

Warren Evans, another trucker, made many trips with stock to the city, which was called "Swan Valley Trucking".

Herb Englbretson, of Canyon Creek, was an outstanding operator. He was the owner of more than one truck too, and through storm, mud, slush, or snow banks, Herb would show up, sometimes night or day. More than once I have known him to have to be pulled by horses, generally the length of the Valley. He continued until 1949.

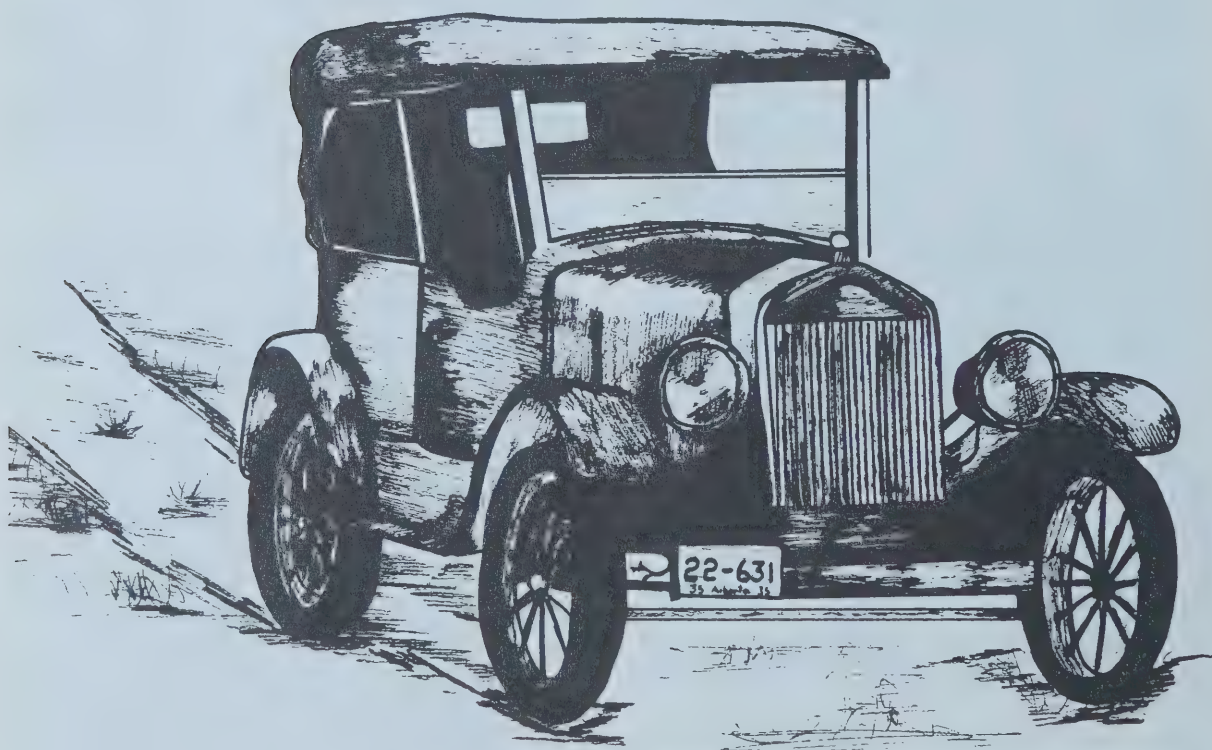
Later in 1949, Harry Yarosh and his brother-in-law, John Mynarchy, took over the "Trucking Business, and did a thriving business, hauling stock out and goods back. They did this until 1952, when Gabe Harward bought out the business, and it was later known as Gabe's Transport. In a few short years, he had two trailer trucks, that were kept on the go most of the time, with a smaller truck at home that made deliveries locally. He and his driver, Clarence Quinn, operated for seven years, ably assisted by Mrs. Harward at the office.

In 1964, due to ill health, Mr. Harward sold his business to "Hayes Enterprises" at Smith, who continued to make daily deliveries to Kinuso.

"Grimshaw Trucking" also made daily deliveries to Kinuso with Mr. Willie Tanasiuk their driver and agent for this district. All stock was shipped via Grimshaw Trucking, except those who trucked their own out. Grimshaw Trucking has been operating the past eight years. (Four years steady).

Chapter Eleven

Development



Dominion Day Sports

by Jean C. Quinn

July 1st was a chosen day for a sports day and community picnic in the early days of our settlement. The first gathering in 1912, was held on the farm of Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Hunt. There were many tents and teepees erected in the field and as the mode of transportation was either by horseback or wagons pulled by horses or oxen, many horses were tethered out and oxen hobbled. All the settlers that could possibly get there showed up and a few horse races were enjoyed (No big prize monies though), hand ball was also played, besides a bit of wrestling among some of the younger men, however all had an enjoya-



1913, 1st of July Parade, sports held at J.C. Hunt's farm.



1913, 1st of July Parade, sports held at J.C. Hunt's farm.



1913, Swan River Parade held at J.C. Hunt's.

ble time swapping yarns and jokes and a general visit. The following year, 1913, the Hunts again hosted the gathering and a few more people who had settled here joined the flock and all had an enjoyable get-together.



1913, Wilfred Hunt in Swan River Parade.

The next year a new spot was chosen and the gathering was on the Kerle homestead and a large crowd gathered.



1916, Float in 1st of July celebration where the present water plant is now.

As the town of Swan River was beginning to take root it was decided to have the picnic at a suitable spot in the vicinity of town, so an open air dance hall (and I don't believe it rained that year) was built by volunteer labor on an area about where the present day water plant is. A merry-go-round was erected close by this by Mr. Wilfred Hunt and Mr. Hyatt, of course all the children enjoyed this. This spot was used for the next few years with a rodeo added to the highlights. I



Dance Pavilion 1st of July sports built close to where present water plant is now.

believe Dolphus Davis, Paul and Pete Sown were in charge of this rodeo and probably others whom I've forgotten (my apologies to them). One thing about this big rodeo that stands out in my mind is that Wilfred Hunt had this quite large barn with corrals on three sides built on his homestead about one mile south of the town, from there these wild horses would be saddled or a surcingle put on and then the rider would take his seat and the horse turned loose in the direction of town. Not very often the rider made it all the way but the horse generally did although pretty tired but still kicking, what a scramble with mothers running this way and that finding the children to get them in a safe place. However there were no casualties and everyone looked forward to the next sports day.

About 1919 or 20 with the F.U.A. Hall being built and other buildings appearing making the area too small for various activities, permission was obtained from the Indian Affairs to lease a piece of land on the west side of town, across the old highway from the present school. This land was improved and stock



Left to right: Mr. Olsen, Fred Arnold, Fred Labby, 1st of July.

corrals were built and a race track laid out circling the grounds, baseball diamonds marked out and an area for concession booths and games.



1916, Float in Parade at 1st of July celebration across from U.F.A. Hall.



Visitors of the Kinuso Sports going home to Canyon Creek, Widewater, and Slave Lake via 2nd class freight. That's me with the straw hat (C.J. Schurter) — 1919-20.

The horse races became very popular and two thorough-bred race horses were acquired. Our local policeman known best as Scotty Cameron owned Telegram which a local lady, Mrs. Scott (Goldie) generally rode. The other race horse was "Mustard" owned by Pat Courtorielle and generally ridden by a member of his family.

Baseball became very popular and we could truthfully boast of having one of the best teams north of Edmonton. Some of the players were H. W. Walker, Percy Freize, W. V. Rice, Roy Sloan, Wm. Webber and Ernest Sloan.



Horse racing on Sports Ground west of town.



1919-20, Sports Day at Kinuso. Notice at right Kinuso School and ladies dressed in long dresses.

Another attraction were the Indian Tom-Toms which accompanied their tea dances which must have continued day and night, how pleased these tea dancers would be when a group from the nightly dance in the U.F.A. hall would wander over and join their festivities. There was also the Tom-Tom used to accompany the chant at a gambling game they played called pug-a-cee. This game would also continue through the night. Our sports day continued always to be on the first of July and soon it became a two day event and even tried three days some years. As baseball tournaments became popular and with the highway being built, travel between towns was easier, so there was more competition. Of course we could always expect and generally received a good rain either just before or during the big event causing the



Tug-of-War at 1st of July celebration.

sports to be postponed a few days, however I think every year we succeeded to celebrate within a week.

Due to some new plans of the Indian Affairs this land was no longer available so the Sports executive decided to try having the sports at a spot near the lake where water sports could be added. However after two years it was found not satisfactory on this spot as water would come in making the baseball diamonds impossible and no rodeo corrals could be built, a site one mile south of town on the property of Buster Churchill was tried but this again was not satisfactory, so a piece of land was purchased from the Indian Reserve just south of where the Agriculture Complex is and baseball diamond and play ground is situated. This was used for a few years until Spruce Point Sports Association was formed and they purchased land near the popular beach on the lake. This land is quite high and water from the lake doesn't bother much, so permanent structures and rodeo corrals have been built there, now we have a permanent sports ground unless of course our lake becomes extremely high and then???? However, we hope to see a good many more yearly sports days on July 1st and 2nd on these grounds.



Sports Day at Swan River held across from old U.F.A. Hall.



1952-53, In 1st of July Parade. "Westward the Women" Mrs. Kate McDonald, Mrs. Agnus Beaupre.



1977, Shawn Sprowl heading 1st of July Parade.



1st of July Sports.



1st of July Sports.

The Indian Tom-Toms

There isn't a more magical sound in the world, than the sound of the "TOM-TOMS" in the night, and the Indians singing around the camp-fires.

The one big event of the year, in those times, was the 1st. of July celebration. The Indians came great distances in wagons drawn by a couple of cayoeses (horses). The whole families rode in these wagons, bringing the tents and teepees and pitching them near the "Chief's" house, but later then a sports ground was established just west of the Village of Kinuso (on the Indian Reserve), they put their tents up there. A few times I have counted as many as 50 tents and teepees, each with a little bon-fire smoking away peacefully.



Sam Giroux & wife — Drummer.

They would come two and three weeks before the celebration, visiting with one another all day and playing their drums most of the night. They would dance their "Tea Dance" or pay "Pugeesie" which is a gambling game played under a blanket, with four pegs or sticks, by four men to the sound of the drums.

The "Tea Dance" is something I have seen many times, and in fact joined into many times. They will build a large bonfire and hang a pail of tea and water on to brew; this is kept on all night. To one side of the fire, two and sometimes three, or even four Indian men, will sit and play the drums. Anyone wishing to dance will form a circle around the fire and do a sort of side shuffle, all the while singing a kind of crooning song. It sounds like the wind blowing through the trees. I used to think there were no words to the singing, but there are "Cree" words especially for funerals when they bury their dead, and, at their marriages. Pat Mitchel Giroux better known as "Old Pat" has quite a thick book of songs written in "Cree."

When anyone gets tired of dancing, they slide out of the circle of dancers and drink tea from the "cup of friendship" that others have used, and more dancers will join the circle. The very old people who are too



Indian Teepee at Sports Ground west of town.

old to dance will sit on the side lines around the fire also drinking "tea" and smoking their pipes "of peace."

As the years go by, one seldom hears the sound of the drums and the enchanting voices of the "Indians" singing.

Joke

When the white men first put up telephone wires across the country, the Indians said, "White man fool," cows go under fence.

Telephone

Local communication became a topic of conversation during the latter part of 1918 and on Feb. 8, 1919 the first meeting was called at the home of Mr. and Mrs. McKillop. Mr. McKillop was elected to the chair by a motion by Mr. A. Bossy, seconded by Mr. George Cornell.

Mr. Bossy was elected secretary for the meeting, motion by Martin Gallagher, seconded by Mr. George Moore.

A name for the organization was discussed and a motion by Mr. Harry Anderson and seconded by Mr. Gallagher that it be named the Slave Lake Mutal Telephone Company, Ltd. with head office at Kinuso, Alberta.

Moved by Harry Anderson, seconded by Mr. Gallagher that the capital of the company be fifteen hundred dollars divided into thirty shares of fifty dol-

lars each; Carried.

Moved by Harry Anderson and seconded by George Cornell that the chair appoint two men to sell shares, Carried.

The chair named Mr. A. Bossy and Mr. George Cornell to sell shares.

Moved by George Cornell, seconded by Emmanuel Grono that a meeting be held in the Public Hall, Kinuso at 2: P.M. on Feb. 18, 1919. Carried.

Meeting adjourned.

Copied from original minute book as written by George E. Cornell co-signed by W. L. McKillop (Pres. of Meeting).

The second meeting (Feb. 18, 1919) an executive and five directors were elected to act for the year. The following being elected:

President — Mr. W. L. McKillop

Sec-Treas. — Mrs. Geo. E. Cornell

Directors —

Mr. Albert Bossy.

Mr. Martin Gallagher.

Mr. Harry Anderson.

Mr. Emmanuel Grono.

Mr. Harry Walker.

The main business was covered in regard to carrying on such as a decision that shareholders only be allowed one vote even though they owned more shares, (three being the limit to be owned) also each shareholder could work out half the value of their share and all subscribers furnish necessary poles to connect with the main line and to the place where the phone is installed, these are to be installed by the subscriber, with wire to be furnished by the Company, but not to exceed one half mile.

It was decided one dollar and twenty five cents be allowed for each pole delivered along the roadway, to a limit of fourteen poles to be delivered not later than June 15, 1919.

It was put to a motion by Paul Bouthman that the Superintendent of Forestries be contacted in regard to connecting with their line to Slave Lake, Mr. Walker was appointed to do this.

A manager for the construction of line was appointed by the Directors. At a directors meeting Mr. Emmanuel Grono was appointed manager, at thirty cents (0.30¢) per hour at work. He could hire an assistant at the best price he could.

On March 30, 1920 it was decided at a meeting to order fifty copies of Certificates of Shares and also ordering of battery operated telephone boxes. A letter was received by Mr. Foley at the Forestry Station from the Superintendent of Forests that they would erect line, connecting line at Mr. Charlie Sloan's to the Forestry. It was found necessary to approach the Swan River Royal Bank Branch in Kinuso in regard to obtaining a loan for five hundred dollars. Later a loan of six hundred and eighty dollars was offered by Mr. A. E. McLean. It was moved and seconded that this be accepted, note due in one year with 10% interest.

Everyone gave a helping hand and early in 1920 the line was in use, and each home was given a code ring such as four shorts, five shorts or one long — one short, two long and similar combinations. The rent

being fifteen dollars a year to keep line in order and to pay off debt.

This line was in use for several years, it remained in the valley after the town turned to the Alberta Government phone. In 1971 it was disbanded completely when the Government Telephone Co. laid underground lines to the outlying district.

I can remember on many long winter evenings when we were entertained by our talented pianist Mrs. Marie Sloan (Aunt Marie to most) when she would ring an exceedingly long single ring and by lifting the receiver we could enjoy a music session, sometimes she would be accompanied by Roy Field on violin or Art Field vocalist and of course there were others too to do their bit. If the receiver was placed in a bowl it would act as an amplifier so could be enjoyed by other members of the household.

Of course being a rural line there would always be one or more interested people wishing to keep up with any latest gossip or events. However no harm was ever done and many laughs were enjoyed when stories got back in a much different tone.

However we take a salute to the old telephone as it had many more good points than bad and helped many people in time in need of assistance.

Land Regulations Permitted Quick Access To Ownership

taken from The Northern Star, Sept, 22, 1955

The homesteader of 1905 was ambitious, hard-working and optimistic. As he wrestles his quarter section from the wilderness, he could see a great future for the West.

Homestead regulations permitted any males over 18 years of age, or any widow, to obtain a quarter section of land free of charge. They had to erect a dwelling on the land and reside there for at least six months a year for three years. During this time, they had to bring 15 acres under cultivation.

They might live in the district, but off their land, and bring 30 acres under cultivation.

If the land was better suited for ranching, the prospective homesteader could fence 80 acres and maintain at least 20 horses or cattle, instead of breaking the land.

At the end of three years, if the homesteader fulfilled all the regulations he was given a free title to the quarter.

Because this offer was not limited to Canadians, thousands of immigrants came to Alberta from the United States, England, Scotland and central Europe.

When the land seeker arrived in Alberta, he found that there were no taxes, except in the incorporated towns or where the farmers themselves levied taxes to pay for schools and roads. These ranged from \$7.50 to \$10 a year on each quarter section.

To build his cabin, the homesteader was free to use any timber on his land.

Policing of the District of Swan River

Mr. Bissell came as a Provincial Police from Slave Lake in 1919. He was stationed here for a short period

and was stationed and transferred in 1920 to Pouce Coupe. He was replaced here by Mr. Osgood. The barracks being moved here from Slave Lake late in the year of 1919.

These notes are from Mrs. Clow's scribbler.

The following is a letter received by Mrs. A. K. Thorburn from Royal Canadian Mounted Police Liaison Office in Ottawa.



Scotty Cameron marked — when in Kinuso in Provincial Police.

Royal Canadian Mounted Police responsible for the policing of Kinuso area until March 1st, 1917, when due to the exigencies of the war, the province relieved us of the police duties. There was however



Constable Art Heal.

no detachment maintained at Kinuso at this time. It was not until April 1st, 1932, at the wish of the Alberta Government, that the force resumed policing of the Province, and the Provincial Police was then dissolved. Scotty Cameron who had been our policeman as an Alberta Police, bought Alex. McLean's land and tried farming. (Now owned by Wayne Sloan)

At the time of the take-over, the force moved into an old Alberta Provincial Police Building, which was rented from H. W. Walker of Kinuso. This building was used as an office until Oct. 1, 1940, when detachment was closed and moved to Slave Lake. During the time the detachment was open here, the following men were stationed here.

CONSTABLE A. J. HEAL — 1931-35.

CONSTABLE G. L. L. DAVEY — 1936.

CONSTABLE R. W. DUFF — 1937.

CONSTABLE B. G. BROWN — 1938-39.

CONSTABLE H. J. ADAMS — 1940.

One of Walker's houses, when first built was the Police Barracks and resident. It was at this location, that upon locking one individual up and thinking everything to be all right, went out for a while and upon returning, found his prisoner calmly sitting in the front room. The prisoner, who through unknown trickery had opened the lock and let himself out. No damage to the lock was found but you can bet it was replaced with a new one.



Harry Walker house used for Police Barracks. A. J. Heal.

Kinuso Takes Forward Step With Elevation To Village

Marking the first stage of its "settling down" process as a new village in the Peace River area the community of Kinuso staged an Election for a council of the customary three individuals on January 23. The result again placed Wm. Card at the top of a poll, Mr. Card receiving 38 votes, to 22 for H. J. Cline, Imperial Oil agent and W. A. "Casey" McLaughlin, dairyman, scoring 21. Other candidates and their votes were D. S. McLaughlin, 20, D. C. Eckardt, 12, and B. E. Boisvert, 11. R. O. Jordan acted as returning officer and received the compliments of the citizens for his skillful handling of the election arrangements.

Initial application for the incorporation of Kinuso was made to the Department of Municipal Affairs some months ago, following the lead given by the local Chamber of Commerce, of which Mr. Card,



H. W. Walker's 1st tent store and Second log store — 1914.



The front of Pierce and Rice's first store. Just across the railway track (on north side) east of present road.

farm implement dealer is president. Some delay was involved through technical matters concerned with the land which it was proposed to include within the boundaries of the village, and discussions took place with officials of the Indian Affairs Department, Ottawa, who visited Kinuso late last year. All points were eventually settled and the "go-ahead" received.

Deriving its name from an Indian chief, Kinuso has experienced a long period of pioneering development before embarking on the progressive step of electing a Village Council. A number of "oldtimers" who witnessed the foundations of the community still reside in the village and receive the respect of the citizens. Foremost of these is H. W. Walker, who for over thirty years, has operated Kinuso's principal general store business. Mr. Walker allowed his name



Front street of Kinuso — 1924.



1918 — Vanderaegen's Silver Fox Store.

to be included in the first list of candidates for the council but withdrew before election day to make room for a younger man. Nevertheless, his advice will always be available to those who will guide the destinies of a co-operative community which has often been referred to as a "typical Canadian Village."



Stock yards at the siding in Kinuso — 1949.



Whitcotton's second restaurant and Bunk-House. Built on railroad right-of-way. Tracks being laid. 1915.



Town of Kinuso (Swan River) — 1930-35.



Furnald's Blacksmith Shop sold to Harry Wilton for Garage. Wilton's home with Don Wilton on sidewalk.

The Village of Kinuso

by Alyce Posegate

The village of Kinuso was incorporated December 31st, 1949, with Mr. Wm. Card as Mayor, Mrs. Fanny Jordan as Secretary and councillors Mr. W. A. (Casey) McLaughlin and Mr. Harvey Cline.

Over the years the elected has been varied, some serving in office for long periods, others on temporary basis. The list is as follows:



1950's — Town of Kinuso.



Mayors:

Mr. Wm. Card — 1949-1953.

Mr. Owen Jordan-Deputy Mayor for 1 year after Mr. Card retired.

Mr. W. A. (Casey) McLaughlin — 1953-1955.

Mr. Vin Rice — 1960.

Mr. Bob Jordan — 1961-1971.

Mr. Peter Czelenski — as Deputy Mayor until Gerald Doerksen was elected late in 1971.

Mr. Richard Lyness — Deputy Mayor — 1956. Present Mayor — Warren Rybak.

Secretary:

Mrs. Fanny Jordan — Mr. Lou Ouillette — Mrs. Doris Hunt — Mrs. Myrtle McLaughlin — Mr. Fred Dumont — Mrs. Diane Doerksen — Miss June Roe is present sec.

Councillors:

Mr. Harvey Cline — 1949-1957, Mr. Richard Lyness — 1953, Mr. Owen Jordan — 1952-1957, Mr. Gabe Howard — 1952, Mr. Vin Rice — 1955-1961, Mr. Russ Gillette — 1961-1967, Mr. Tom Hill — 1967-1971, Mr. John Kirtio — 1966-1968, Mr. Donald Stasow — 1967-1969, Mr. Francis Dow — 1971, Mr. Peter Czelenski — 1971, Mr. Balder Parmar — 1971, Present councillors are Mrs. Terria Ericson, Mr. Orin Roe and Mr. Art Thorburn.

In 1959 Mr. Joe Dusheneau was hired as full time foreman at a salary of \$87.50 per month. Previous to that time Mr. Howard Posey and Mr. Casey McLaughlin had looked after clean-ups etc.

Many resolutions and by-laws were instituted to make the town better organized. One such resolution passed in the early days after the incorporation reads as follows, "that Mr. Edgar Stevenson be the office janitor at a salary of 50¢ per office day"! A later one stated that tax payers be asked to sign a petition for continuation of Nursing Service for the Village and District when this vital service was threatened.

A resolution re-running at large of domestic animals in the town brought the appointment of Mr. Tip Roe as pound keeper. Menace of bicycles on sidewalk was discussed.

In 1951, business licenses were issued to Charlie Griffin for a taxi, to Mrs. Joyce Rosenau for her cafe and to Mr. W. A. McLaughlin governing the sale of milk and cream. One was issued to Swan Valley Service for the garage and dealership for machinery and cars. In 1951, a resolution re-fire fighting when a chemical fire engine was purchased and where best to house it. At this time too, Mr. Posey was asked to be village constable and also to act as fire chief.



Howard Posey, Town of Kinuso Policeman.

In this year the Tryo Club boys were hired to clean streets. In 1952 street lighting was discussed and was installed at a cost of \$3.00 to \$3.50 each. In this year the highway change came about as it had previously went past the school and considered dangerous. Also a fire siren was purchased and installed and was to be turned on at 12 o'clock noon and 9 p.m. as a curfew for children under 16 years of age.

In 1954 a town grader was purchased. Later Mr. Dow called it "Bon Ami" as it hadn't scratched yet.

A crisis developed once when Mr. Card threatened to cut off the power unit in town, which he owned. An agreement to purchase it was made. A few years later Alberta Power came to the town.

In 1955, a dog catcher was hired. Also in 1955, Mr. Pat O'Shea became constable. Later Joe Dushenau served in that capacity, also Dave Griffin and W. A. McLaughlin. Two other persons also served as constable but our researcher could not discover their names. Now the R.C.M.P. patrols our town.

In 1955, a fire brigade was organized and first practice drill was held Feb. 11th, at 2 p.m. In 1955 a resolution was passed to have Doug McLaughlin for Justice of the Peace.

In Sept. of 1952 a building permit was issued to Rev. Wm. Wanchalak for a church to be built on Lot A of Block 6.

In 1952, the Canadian Legion was allotted \$150.00 to provide free skating for residents.

In 1960 a permit was issued to Kinuso Hotel Co. to build a new hotel at a cost of \$100,000.00. Also in the year an engineering firm was contracted for construction of sidewalks for the town.

As early as 1957 discussions had begun regarding Waterworks for the town. It was proposed to make use of the old N.A.R. water tower but the engineers would not recommend it. So the town was forced to spend \$1800.00 for pumping water from river into a



Casey McLaughlin, Town of Kinuso Policeman.

constructed reservoir. It was also discussed and negotiated with Indian Affairs for the reservoir site, which was leased for 33 years at \$200.00 rent. After 3rd reading of by-law No. 86, Waterworks for the Village dated Sept. 15th, 1960 was accomplished. A real Red Letter Day for everyone. Mr. Ed Dow became foreman when water was installed.

In 1970, the sewer system was installed also and it too required many discussions and negotiations.

This year of 1979 a new water plant was built with better facilities as the old plant was not equipped to handle the increased use of water after new homes were constructed and the use of automatic washers and dishwashers increased the load.

Sidewalks were again up for discussion but due to the many times the town has been threatened by floods it was decided a new dam to alleviate this problem was more practical. The dam is almost completed.

Who knows maybe next year we'll get sidewalks. In the meantime we must pay tribute to all the mayors, councillors, secretaries and constables, to foremen past and present for their contribution to make Kinuso the nice little town it is.

Village Dream Comes True As New Water System Opens Here

The dream of Kinuso has come true with the waterworks program and with the coming of water the work of every housewife has been agreeably lessened. Gone are the days of the everlasting drawing of water from the town pump.



Trying to grade the main street in Kinuso. No grading done before.



Centre street of Kinuso, notice street is graded — 1930.



1979 — Old and new Water Plant in Kinuso.

Washdays are lightened — the tea kettle is placed on the stove after a swing to the tap. The old pump has long been rather a drudge — a necessary part of every household with the romantic sounding title. But now how much easier to have the running water in every home! What if the streets are dug up and mud tracks around for a little while. There is now lots of water to scrub and wash up.

Everybody is happy — Kinuso has running water.



1979 — The old Post Office, owned and run by Mr. and Mrs. McKillop as it looks now.



1979 — New Post Office across the street from Nurse's Home.



1929 — New Hotel where Whitecotton's Hotel stood.



Kodiak Lodge Hotel — 1979.



1979 — The old B.E. Boisvert and Son's store, now Royal Bank and Mary Samuelson's Flower Shop.



Kinuso School - 1921.



1979 — Kinuso Mercantile owned by Art and Doris Boisvert.



Kinuso School and Auditorium — 1979.



1944- Wilton's Garage.



H.W. Walker's garage on front street in Kinuso in 1930's.



1979 — Ken Killeen's Garage in Kinuso.



1979 — Left to right: Vin Rice's Hardware store, the Laundromat, and Yarosh's store now owned by Carol and Gunther Specht.

The Old Bake Shop

The "Old Bake Shop" stood alone on the last site of the main street in Swan River (Kinuso) for many years.

It was built by C. R. Field for a grocery store in 1917, the family living in the back, with sleeping quarters upstairs.

Later when they built the big house and saw mill south of town, Mrs. Beagles took it over and ran a restaurant in it for many years.

When she married John Reeve and moved to the farm, Mrs. Beasley's brother, who was a Baker rented it and started a bake shop in it. Not being able to make it pay, he moved away and Mrs. Bowen then rented it and ran "Rooms and Restaurant." To quote her daughter all you could eat for 35¢.



The old "Bake Shop" where Mrs. Bowen ran a restaurant.

When she retired to the U.S.A. after a period of at least 10 years, it became vacant.

It was finally torn down to make way for a "Brand New Motel."

Over the years it had housed many people who contributed to the growth of the "Town" but in its final years it stood empty and alone. "Seeming to say, I have served, now I am finished."

Kinuso Nursing Station

Kinuso District: Established July/29.

Committee not organized under Societies Act. Women's Institute has always acted as Committee. Kinuso Board of Trade owns cottage and land. The committee do not pay taxes. This centre was transferred from Slave Lake.

Questionnaire — Kinuso, Jan. 18/46

215 miles N.W. of Edmonton; 50 miles S.E. High Prairie where closest hospital and doctor are located. On N.A.R. Ry. Nearest telephone at railway station. Cottage looked after by local Women's Institute: — Mrs. W. Rice, Mrs. M. Bowen. Mrs. A. McDonald, Mrs. D. McLaughlin. This committee has served for some years. Yearly and quarterly meetings held. \$1.00 asked from each family for upkeep of nurse and is obtained. Mostly treatment service. District fairly well immunized. V.D. work conducted by special nurse from Social Hygiene Division. Pre-natal, Child Welfare and Obstetrics. Predominating nationalities: Anglo-Saxons. Average educational standard of adults—Public School. Amenable to teaching. Service



1979 — The first (Old) Nurse's Home.

is appreciated but office hours not well observed. District is fairly prosperous and living conditions fair. Kinuso is immediately adjacent to an Indian Reserve, and while there is a nurse for the Treaty Indians, our nurse is often called and sends her bill to the Indian Affairs Dept., through Mr. L'Heureux, Indian Agent at Driftpile.

COTTAGE — 3 rooms and surgery. In good repair and well furnished. Nearest store and shopping centre in the village. Water supplied from adjacent wells. Cottage well in disrepair. Electricity but rate is extremely high. Fuel supply well kept up. Mrs. C. J. Somerville.

KINUSO DISTRICT — inspected Oct./46—Mrs. J. S. Clark

During this past summer the Committee have launched a fairly ambitious building program in connection with the cottage. The cottage has been raised onto a cement foundation. At the time of my visit there were only temporary steps at the front of the cottage which were very narrow and a couple of logs act as steps at the back of the cottage. I suggested to the Committee that these steps should be attended to immediately before there was an accident. The Committee had also added an office on the south side of the house, since there has never been a waiting room at this cottage, it is planned to use the office as a waiting room, it will be small and much brighter, but at the same time much more satisfactory than the present arrangement, the nurse very often having to use her own livingroom as a waiting room.

The walls throughout the house have all been redone with beaver board. They are to be left at present, but in-time as they become soiled, they will be painted.

In all, I believe the Committee have spent around \$1,000. A couple of attempts have been made to provide a well on the property, but these attempts have not been very successful. During my visit a meeting of the local Committee was held and members of the Women's Institute at Faust and Wide-Canyon asked to join in. Up to the present time the Kinuso W. I. have carried the responsibility of maintaining the cottage and it was pointed out at this meeting that it would be well to have representatives of groups in other parts of the district participate in the work, and that there would be an advantage in having a similar

joint meeting at least on an annual basis in order to keep the district informed of the activities. It appeared unfortunate that there were no male members on the Nurse's Home Committee, or at least that a men's advisory Committee had not been appointed to assist with building plans.

It was hoped that some type of joint planning could be worked out with the Indian nurse from Driftpile whereby the Indian Affairs nurse would use the cottage one afternoon a week in order to interview Treaty Indian patients. At the present time they consider it much simpler to call on our nurse either day or night for the simplest complaints.

INSPECTION VISIT — Nov./47

A meeting with representatives from Faust and Kinuso, had a lively discussion. Teas, suppers, refreshment booths, have been made use of to raise money, but there is a debt of some \$300.00 outstanding. A furnace has been purchased but was not at the time installed. The office is a fine addition to the house and when heated it will be very helpful. The drinking water is at present obtained from the hotel M. A. Evans.

JULY 11/49

This is a very busy district and a government telephone is really needed. The furnace pipes constitute a fire hazard as they are very close to the cellar ceiling. Met with Mrs. Rice and the house committee. The furnace pipes are to be covered with asbestos. The house is to be redecorated on the inside and back shed to be jacked up. The committee keeps this house in very good repair. They have recently supplied a spring filled mattress and have set up a new toilet. The work is going satisfactorily in this district B. A. Emerson

NOV. 5/49

Met with Mrs. Rice, President and Mrs. McDonald. Other members were not notified due to a misunderstanding of who was to let them know about the meeting. The former debt has been paid off and they have a small fund left to buy the winter's supply of fuel. Asbestos covering has been put on furnace pipes. Paint has been secured for interior decorating but not yet applied. Telephone to be installed for \$175.00. It was suggested that a clothes cupboard and inside toilet be put in the bedroom. — M. M. Fitzsimmons.

FEB. 1/50

New flatware, linen, 1 pr. sheets, towels, shingle roof paint M. Wyld

JUNE 1956

Have rental agreement in operation \$120.00 per month until Dec. 1957. J. W.

FEB. 1957

As the community of Jousard are at present not receiving adequate Public Health and emergency service it has been recommended to the Dept. of Mun. Affairs that the district of Kinuso be extended to include the west end of I.D. 124 in the Kinuso Nursing Service. It has also been recommended that a car

be provided for the Kinuso Mun. Nurse so this area may be more adequately served. We have been advised by the Dept. of Mun. Affairs that a project such as this might be carried on under a Dominion-Provincial grant D. Mc.

KINUSO 1959

Arrangements were made for the Athabasca Health Unit to do the public health program in the Jousard area since the Kinuso nurse has already as much as she can handle.

NOV. 1961

Although Kinuso has a reasonably new cottage, it has not been kept in good repair. Both Faust and Kinuso committee members appear disinterested to the needs of the nurse. Pressure should be brought to bear on the committee to maintain this cottage more adequately. The service required in the community continues to be demanding. Health Education is the major need here D. Smith

DEC. 22/1961

The Nursing Service Committee, although a very nice social group, have little interest in maintaining the nurse's cottage and grounds. The Committee have been advised that there will be no nurse stationed in Kinuso until the cottage and grounds have been brought up to standard. The Committee has sufficient funds to complete the project D. Smith

APRIL 29/1966

New committee have shown more interest for last two years. New furniture provided in 1964. Now noisy location near beer parlor and motel . . . Mrs. J. C. Bailey.



New Nurse's home in Kinuso, Alberta.

JUNE 1971

The use of the service decreased until consideration was given to closing it. The local community were of one opinion that the service was required. A change of staff proved this. It is now a very busy district with full support of the community and more active interest is shown by the Nursing Service Committee. The cottage is now repaired to good standard. Jousard has been added to the service. Some clerical assistance supplied from Slave Lake office of the Athabasca Health Unit. The opening of the Slave Lake Hospital in 1969 and resident physicians there

have made less reason for the treatment service. Many residents still go to High Prairie for service. Roads are improved gravel only. Activity due to oil boom evident 4-5 years ago has disappeared Mrs. J. C. Bailey.

SOME OF THE MUNICIPAL HEALTH NURSES:

MISS MARGARET C. MacKENZIE — relieved May to July/40.

DR. ELIZABETH C. RODGER — transferred from Slave Lake and served until Aug./31.

MRS. KATHERINE P. COLE — Mrs. Cole — Sept.1/31-Mar. 31/33 resigned to become Matron Peace River Hospital — Returned to staff 1939.

MISS MARIE GARDE — Relief during Mrs. Cole's illness to June 28/33.

MISS HELEN ANDERSON — July 17/33.

MISS LUCY DRUMMOND-HAY relief nurse.

MISS GARDE returned to district in Dec./33 — Jan. 1/34 Trans. Hines Creek.

MISS JESSICA B. FRENCH — Jan. 1/35 — Apr. 24/36 Resigned to become Mrs. A. Field.

MISS JANET MUNROE — Apr. 11/36 — Apr. 17/37. Transferred to Pendryl.

MISS A. ISOBEL BLACK — Relieved during holidays 1936.

MISS MURIEL GRANT — Apr. 26/37 — May 25/37. Resigned to go to Wanham as District Nurse.

MISS RUTH PUGH — Nurse at Tangent sent to relieve followed by Miss H. Anderson.

MISS HELEN G. McARTHER — Nov./37 — July 31/39. Leave of absence to attend Columbia U.

MISS BARBARA WHITTAKER — July 31/39 — Nov. 8/41. Resigned to go to Health Unit.

MISS VIRGINIA BRANSAGER — Nov. 5/41 — Apr. 22/43. Resigned to go to Health Unit.

MISS THORDIS ARNASON — Apr. 30/42 — May 31/43 — Resigned to be married — Mrs. Card.

MISS HAZEL DEARING — Relieved 1 month July 19/43 — Aug. 9/43 — To Blue Mtn.

MISS AMY V. WILSON — Aug. 1/43 — Nov. 10/44 — Transferred to Dr. Orr's Dept.

MISS RUTH L. BOHLMEN — Nov. 10/44 — Jan. 5/45 — Resigned to go to Indian Dept.

MISS DOROTHY KAUFMAN — Jan. 1/45 — Nov. 30/45 — Married Dr. McPhail.

MRS. CATHERINE J. SOMERVILLE — Dec. 1/45 — Leave of absence for Obs. Course Sept. — Jan./49 — then to be transferred to Youngstown.

MISS M. WYLD — Oct. 4/48 — Transferred from Smith — Married Mr. Gib Rogne Aug. 4/51.

MISS CAROL M. GAUNT — Nov. 9/51 — Resigned to be married June 30/52.

MISS S. A. MacINTYRE — Kinuso (Relief) June 26/52 — June 5/53 — Transfer to G.P.H. Unit.

MISS EDITH C. ROBINSON — Kinuso — June 1/53 — Sept. 12/54.

MISS MARJORIE MITCHELL — Sept. 8/54 — Sick Leave Dec. 5/55 to Feb. 1/56.

MISS FRANCIS BRAY — Aug. 18/56 — Transfer from Hines Creek. Resigned Dec. 31/56.

MISS BERTHA PUTZ — Feb. 1/57 — resignation Nov. 30, 1958.

MISS MARY JANZEN — Substitute — Apr. and May 1958. June 1/58 transferred to H.U.

MISS ISOBEL J. BROVALD — June 1/59 — Transferred July 1/60.

MISS JANET GAVIGAN — Aug. 1/60 — Retired Sept. 19/70.

MRS. M. CAMP — Sept. 15/70 — Sept. 30/72 — Transferred to Smith.

MRS. ROSE BERRY — the present Health Nurse.

Doctors in Kinuso

Dr. E. M. McIntyre was one of the first Drs. to come down to Kinuso from High Prairie.

Dr. Cecil Bennett came here in 1933 and set up a practise here. He only stayed for a few months.

Dr. J. B. T. Wood and Dr. A. Tredger of High Prairie, held clinics in the Nurse's Home, in 1953, once a week.

Dr. McFarland also later held clinics in the local nurse's office.

Electricity in Swan River and Kinuso Area from 1907-1979

(by Charlie Schurter and Bill Card)

In the early days, after the turn of the century, when the pioneers came to this country, there was no electricity as we know it today — no electric lights — no deep freezers — no fridges — and most of all no heat from electric stoves and fans.

Many of the people who came to Swan River (Kinuso) from 1907-1920 approximately, had to be content with coal-oil lamps and lanterns. It wasn't always easy to keep a supply of coal-oil on hand but as time went by and store-keepers like Walker's and Pierce and Rice's were in operation, it was a sure thing to get it.

A few persons have told me that when they'd run out of coal-oil, they'd cut shavings from pieces of wood that they put in their stoves, and in this way the shavings burned brightly and they could see quite well, even read by the glow.

A few years later, when gas was available, gas lamps with mantles became popular and were used for many years. Even some people used them up until the time Bill Card came and started his light plant.

A quote from Max Vanderoegen: "In the early 20's my folks had Charlie Schurter (still living in Slave Lake at 92 years) install electric lights, operated by a 32 volt delco plant in our cellar (no basements in those days, cement was too costly)."

There were other places such as Walkers, Rices, Boisverts, Hills, who had their places wired by Charlie Schurter and got their own plants.

In a letter received from Bill Card, Oct. 18th, 1978 he states:

Early in 1946, I, with my father's help, built a garage and power plant building in Kinuso, and served the Hamlet, as it was at that time building my own power lines and installations. This power was 110 volt D.C. power, and was operated as such until 1953,

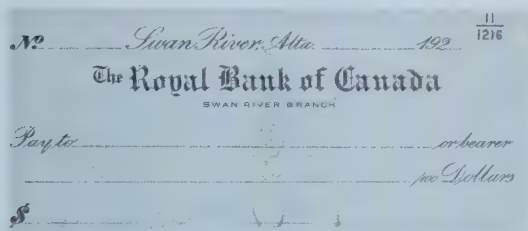
when I bought new equipment and changed to 110-220-A.C. power.

I operated this equipment until 1958, when I sold out to Northland Utilities.

First Royal Bank in Swan River (Kinuso) 1919

In 1918, Mr. Walker opened up a hotel on Front Street and built a frame building right beside it. He rented this building to the Royal Bank of Canada.

The Royal Bank decided to have a branch in this area because of the high demand for their services.



Many citizens wanted to sell hay, fish, railway ties, telephone poles and various other commodities so a bank was badly needed.

The first bank to give services to the people of the Swan River was opened in 1919 with Mr. Purdy as manager and Mr. Robinson as teller.

One day, early in the spring of 1920 or 1921, a fire broke out in the hotel and burned both buildings right to the ground. The Swan River area was without a bank until 1968 when a new one was opened.

A gleaming new office in Kinuso was the site for the official opening of the Royal Bank in Kinuso recently.

Official Opening

OF THE

Royal Bank of Canada KINUSO



After the fire, the town of Kinuso was left without a bank. The Kinuso and District Chamber of Commerce decided to build a new bank building.

The Kinuso and District Chamber of Commerce decided to build a new bank building. The building was completed in 1968 and is now the home of the Royal Bank of Canada.

The bank will operate on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday. The opening ceremony will be held on Tuesday, November 10, 1968, at 10 a.m.

The Chamber of Commerce invites all residents of the area to avail themselves of this service.



Opening of bank in Kinuso. This bank was opened for business in the 'Town Office'. There was also a bank in the early 1920's beside Walker's Hotel which burned down — 1959.

The Kinuso and District Chamber of Commerce carried out a survey throughout the winter months of the needs for a banking service in the area, to serve the people from Slave Lake to High Prairie. As a result of this survey, officials of the Royal Bank of Canada chose the town of Kinuso, as the logical point

for the operation of a bank.

For the time being, the bank will operate on two days per week basis. Banking hours will be from 10 A.M. to 3 P.M. on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

The Chamber of Commerce invites all residents of the area to avail themselves of this service.

Mr. Norman Hushagen, Manager of Imperial Lumber Co. and Vice Pres. of the Chamber of Commerce in Kinuso, is shown being greeted by Mr. Jack Dryden, Manager of the Royal Bank. Mr. Hushagen made the first deposit on behalf of the Chamber of Commerce.



Jack Dryden, Royal Bank Manager, accepting 1st Savings Account deposit from Nellie McLaughlin, 8 yrs.

#2 Highway

articles submitted by Leo Lillo and Freddy Prichuk

The U.F.A. Government started the highway from Peace River to Canyon Creek. Homer Johnstone was the engineer from Peace River.

Williscroft was the contractor — he took contracts to grade the road through the Kinuso area, there was more than one contractor along the route.

Leo's father worked for Williscroft at the time. At this time they had the Rumley Oil Pull Wheel tractor to pull the grader as they crossed lots of muskeg country. The Rumley tractor would sink, nearly out of sight, and it took them many days, to get this machine out.

Floyd Kriskie had the contract to repair the bad places in the 20's and early 30's. Frank Dewis was one of his men. He drove this team of mules (one mule was a huge thing called Moose, the other was such a tiny mite, called Scotty), they made a funny sight — this big mule and one tiny one.

Leo started work on the highway in the 1930's. The grade was finished then, and he ran the grader and patched the bad places along the road.

Leo Lillo



Doug McLaughlin — first D.P.W. vehicle.



#2 Highway in 1928. Looking west from the top of the Prichuk Hill. Taken Sept. 2nd.

trees as the years went by.

Well, we got settled in about a week, when a message was sent out to my Uncle Jack, that Homer Johnstone was in town (Kinuso) and wanted to see him. He and four other surveyors were going to survey a "road." This was unbelievable, as up to now, there had only been a trail through the trees and bush only wide enough for a team of horses and sometimes in the summer impassable in the rainy season.

Because Uncle Jack had worked on the land survey with Homer Johnstone, he wanted him as a guide on this survey crew.

As our place was central, the crew all boarded at our place and immediately the work started Father got his team of horses on right away.

Jack was hired as guide, there were men hired to go ahead blazing the trail. Chain men who measured the width of the road. Homer Johnstone's orders



1925-26 #2 Highway — toward Prichuk Hill being cleared — leaving only a sea of stumps.



In the early 20's Marie Sloan — at the ferry over the Athabasca taking a load of Valley people over.

#2 Highway became a reality in the spring of 1926. Story told of the building of the Highway by Freddy Prichuk:

In April, mother, half-sister Mary and I got off the passenger train about 4 in the morning. Father (Fred) was there to meet us with a team of horses and a long sleigh. The drive to our farm was something I'll never forget; the ringing of the bells on the horses harness, and us driving six miles along a winding trail through big trees and the moon shining so bright you could see every tree. The first thing I wanted to do was climb one of those trees. This was something I regretted the rest of my life because I saw enough of those



The ferry crossing the Athabasca River at Smith — Aug. 13th 1933.

were “to stay on high ground regardless of what happened.” He stayed on high ground all-right. There were 18 curves between our place and “town.”

A week later, the first advance party came, setting up camp at Eula Creek. There were between 50 and 60 men and something around 125 horses. They put tents up, lots of tents. A huge tent for cooking, and eating, big tents for sleeping in and other big tents for the horses. One thing to be said, the food was marvelous in that camp. Cakes, pies, cookies and big plates of fudge was kept on the table at all times and men could come any time of the day and help themselves to whatever they wanted and as much as they wanted. The men could take pockets full of this fudge out to work with them.



One of the first road crews: Doug McLaughlin, Leo Lillo, Jim English, Roy Field.

There were lots of rules to be followed too. Every man had to sharpen his ax every night or he was fired. There were saw-filers in camp that kept the saws sharp. Men earned \$2.80 per day and board was free.

After the surveying was done they started to clear the right-of-way. It was 66 feet wide, right through virgin timber. Besides the men who blazed the trail and the chain men who measured, there were sawyers and teamsters. There were two men to a saw (cross-cut) who cut the trees down and cut the trees in 16 foot lengths. The teamsters skidded these logs off to the sides of the right of way, leaving a path down the centre to drive on. Men piled the brush and burned it leaving the right of way nothing but a “sea of

stumps.” All this timber and brush taken off the right of way was of no value as there was no mill to saw it up and you couldn’t haul it out as the mud was too deep.

When this stretch of road was cleared out this way, the camp was moved to Assineau. There were many camps like this along this stretch of country when the highway started.



Road construction outfit on #2 Highway.

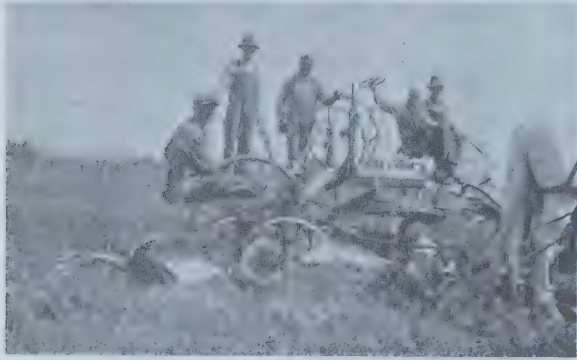


The wagon bridge over the Swan River — now, no longer there.



1925-26. Starting of #2 Highway in Kinuso. Slashing right-of-way.

In 1927, more crews came in to clear the stumps. This was done with horses and the bigger ones that horses couldn't pull out, with stumping powder. It was shipped in by box car on the railroad and men hauled it out in wagon boxloads. They blasted a roadway through these stumps 24 feet wide from ditch to ditch. This went on all summer; in the early morning when the air was clear you could hear these blasts going off; it sounded like a war going on. There were as many as 15-20 blasts under a big stump.



The first road grader in Kinuso. Sam Kool, Howard Posey, Tom McNiel, and Harry Hunt.

After this pathway was cleared there were crews of men who built small bridges over streams and creeks and corduroyed the soft spots.

1927-28, Willis Croft took contract to build a stretch of road through Kinuso area with a Rumley tractor and grader. Floyd Kresge had contract to repair bad places in the early 30's.



Frank Dewis at work on the highway near Kinuso.



Local volunteers clearing snow off roads in early days — 1946.

Frank Dewis was the first man to maintain the road. His beat was from the River to Assineau and took him all day to make the trip. He carried lunch and feed for the mules and horses.

In later years this "Highway" became a beautiful wide gravel road and now is one of the finest paved roads in the Province.



Paved highway #2 near Canyon Creek in 1979.

Picture Shows

The first picture shown in town in the U.F.A. Hall were operated by Wm. Boyd, who operated a shoe and harness repair shop beside the old Bake Shop.

This was a small size projector with no voice, but the hall would be filled to capacity each night of a show. I believe the entry charge was 25¢ for an adult and 10¢ for children. He first began showing the films once a month, but before long he was showing a film every two weeks.

The pictures were mostly of the Western variety or Comedies. After Billy Boyd (as he was generally known) decided to try other green fields and moved away, he was succeeded by Len Stiles, then Mr. Lysne (teacher) and later Mrs. Watson from Edmonton. After the war and the Legion Hall was built, the Legion began to have Sound movies with Vin Rice as Projectionalist on a large screen this was a big improvement, there were two shows each evening twice a week, Wednesday and Saturday. Many hit films were shown during this period of operation. Later when electricity was brought to the community and T.V. sets became a must in every household, the picture show fans remained at home watching T.V. so the Legion was forced to abandon their shows.

Kinuso Trailer Court

During the first of the oil boom in Swan Hills, a trailer court was laid out in the west side of Kinuso town. This court was owned and operated by Taras and Zanny McRee. It was opened for use in the fall of

1963 with water lines and sewerage.

There was as many as thirty-five trailers parked in this court which could also boast of a laundromat within handy access of the trailer's occupants.

Kinuso Grain Elevators

Mrs. Alyce Posegate

This is a letter received from United Grain Growers Limited, when the elevator service in Kinuso was discontinued.

We are sorry to discontinue service in your town and I am sure you will realize that it is with great reluctance that we must do so.

I am attaching a short summary of the history of the Kinuso Elevator and the men who operated it. Since this was a purchased elevator, our records on its beginnings are somewhat sketchy, but perhaps it will suffice.

Kinuso #1 was built in 1951, and was purchased from Midland Pacific in 1954.

Kinuso #2 was built in 1938, and was also purchased from Midland Pacific in 1954. The #2 elevator was dismantled in the fall of 1969.

Elevator Managers at Kinuso:

William John Flynn: Feb. 15, 1954-July 19, 1967

Angus MacLellan: July 19, 1967-May 3, 1968

Lloyd H. Hudema May 31, 1968-Sept. 1, 1968

L. W. Stoyanowski: Sept. 1, 1968-March 6, 1969

Norman P. Aebly: March 1, 1969-Aug. 1, 1969

Doyle W. Cochlin: Aug. 1, 1969-Aug. 20, 1971

Edgar Doyle: Sept. 22, 1971-March 31, 1972

Lloyd B. Somers: April 27, 1972-July 31, 1973

Kinuso #1 - Capacity of 60,000 bushels.

Kinuso #2 - Capacity of 15,000 bushels.

About a year after the service was discontinued here the building was purchased by Sloco and Zanny McRee for their personal use.



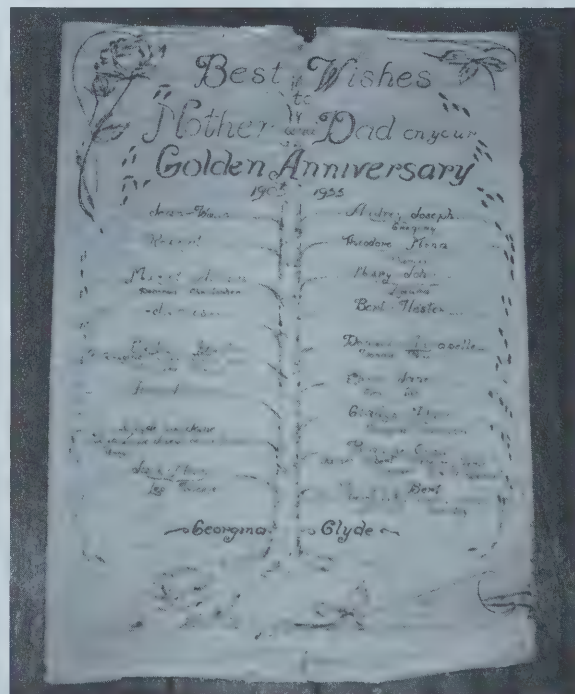
Kinuso U.G.G. Building — 1979.

Chapter Twelve

Photographs



Finny and Eva Hill's 60th Wedding Anniversary.



In honor of Mr. and Mrs. Clyde Churchill's 50th Wedding Anniversary.



Nell and Tom Sloan's 50th Wedding Anniversary.



The Sr. Fernald's 50th Wedding Anniversary.
Lived in Swan River in 1920's.



Lucy and Orville Hall's 50th Wedding Anniversary.
Front: Lucy and Orville Hall (Kentucky)
Back row left to right: Finny and Eva Hill, Edgar Hill, Mrs. Olive Walker, Mar Hill, Ethel (Hunt) Kerle, Geo Kerle, Mr. and Mrs. John Gallagher.



Oley and Lil Sloan's 50th Wedding Anniversary.



Mr. and Mrs. George Cornell's 50th Wedding Anniversary with members of their family: Doug, Mary, Leo, Ruth, Laura, Dennis, Terry, Eldeen and Loren.



Mr. and Mrs. Jess Sloan, taken sitting on the chairs that were presented to them from the Community, on their 50th Wedding Anniversary. April 1953.



Harry and Glennie Hunt's 50th Wedding Anniversary. August 24th, 1964.



Ernest and Sylvia Sloan's 50th Wedding Anniversary. July 22nd, 1977.



Jean and Ed Quinn's 40th Wedding Anniversary.
Left to right standing — James, Edna Gerald, Clarence, Ethel.
Left to right seated — Sally Rice, Jean and Ed Quinn, and Vin Rice.



Mr. and Mrs. Mike Tanasuik's 59th Wedding Anniversary.



Pete and Susan Dumont's 50th Wedding Anniversary — 1978.



John and Liz Swanson's 50th Wedding Anniversary.



Nell and Jess Sloan's 65th Wedding Anniversary, 1968.



Paul and Millie Sowan's 50th Wedding Anniversary, 1978.



Mr. and Mrs. Kirtio's 50th Wedding Anniversary.
Feb. 9th, 1970. Russ Gillett on left.



George and Evelyn Robinson's 40th Wedding Anniversary.



Hercel and Delta Sloan's 50th Wedding Anniversary.



Mr. and Mrs. Edgar Stevensons' 50th Wedding Anniversary. Sitting down left to right: Cecil Grono, Mable Grono, Edgar and Mrs. Edgar Stevenson, Fred Stevenson, Marjory (Fred's wife). Standing left to right: John, Cathie (John's wife), Edith (Walter's wife), Beatrice (Bub's wife), Melvin (Bub), May, Henry Brulotte, Molly (George's wife), George, Florence, Tom Grono, Eva, Joe Wallsmith, Kenny and Nonny.

Note: Married in Calgary in 1908, Mr. and Mrs. Edgar Stevenson celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary recently. For many years they struggled with a pioneer homestead farm near Kinuso. They have six sons and four daughters. At the Anniversary supper, Mr. John Stevenson proposed the toast to his parents. Mr. and Mrs. Stevenson have 49 grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren.



Doug and Myrtle McLaughlin's 40th Wedding Anniversary. Held in Kinuso.



Eddy and Adalaide Dow's 40th Wedding Anniversary. Karen, Marilyn, Donald, Doreen, Diane, Jim, Francis and Larry.

Old Cars



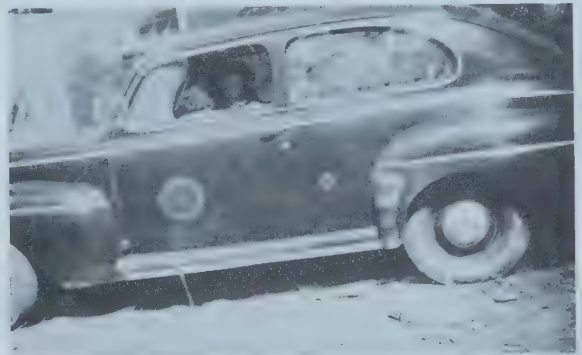
1918 — Jean Quinn in Windsor Rice's Model-T-Ford.



Leo Lillo, Marguerite Dewis, Francis Dewis, Doug McLaughlin.
First trip to Wabasca by car.



J.C. Hunt 1916 in Maxwell Car.



Frank Sowan and his 1946 Ford.



Sheldon's Model T Ford car. Mrs. Sheldon's family.



J.C. Hunt's Car. Passengers: Eva, Grandma Hunt, John Noortwick.



1926 Dodge, Ted Cuthbert and Raymond Sloan owned this car.



Old Graham 1928 truck. Ed Quinn driving to the first annual Pioneer picnic August 9, 1965 at Triangle, his passenger, James his son.



Joe Stone's "Blue Bird" Ford car painted blue, originally belonged to Bob Isner in 1926.



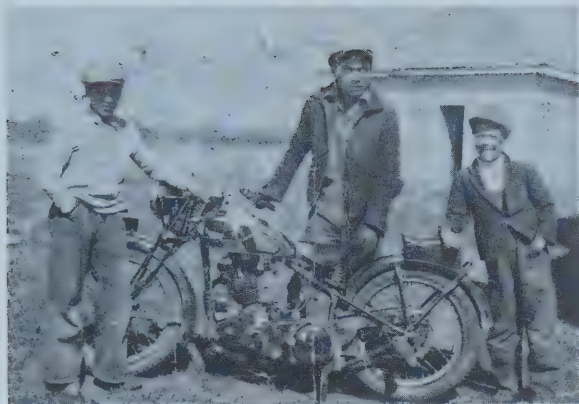
1927 Ford.



Pathfinder Car 1924.



J. Sloan's Model T Ford Car.



Robert L'Hirondelle, Lawrence Twin, Eddy Courtorielle with Father Kinderwater's motor bike, 1937.



Joe Potskin and his 1929 Chev.



1950 Steve Prichuk's first truck.

Scenery



Scene in Swan Valley taken from the air showing Quinn-Cornell farms. Photo by R. Dent.



Scene of Swan Valley showing the cemetery. Photo by R. Dent.



Winter Scene.



The "Big Snow" taken at Charlie Magnus'.



Jack Killeen at Grizzly Mountain.



Lesser Slave Lake shore after a high wind.



Top of Deer Mountain when Mathew Cornell took his father and George Moore there on a trip before all the roads were built.



June 17, 1974, Judy Creek fire in the Swan Hills.



Lesser Slave Lake beach at Poplar Point.



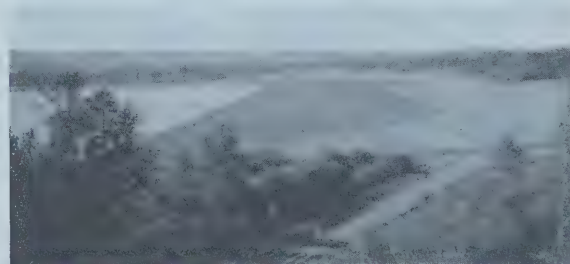
From Mike's hill looking down to Adams Creek.



Winter scene in Kinuso.



Grizzly Mountain in Swan Hills.



View from McNamara's hill in 1954, looking west, old road no longer exists.

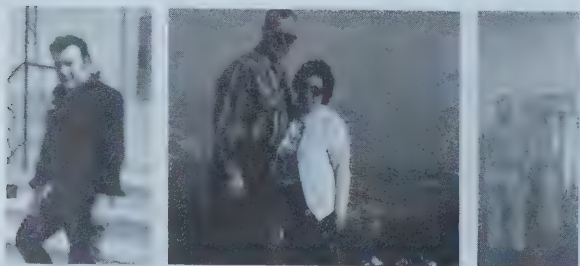


1977 — Murray Onstine's Trapping Cabin at Grizzly Creek.

General



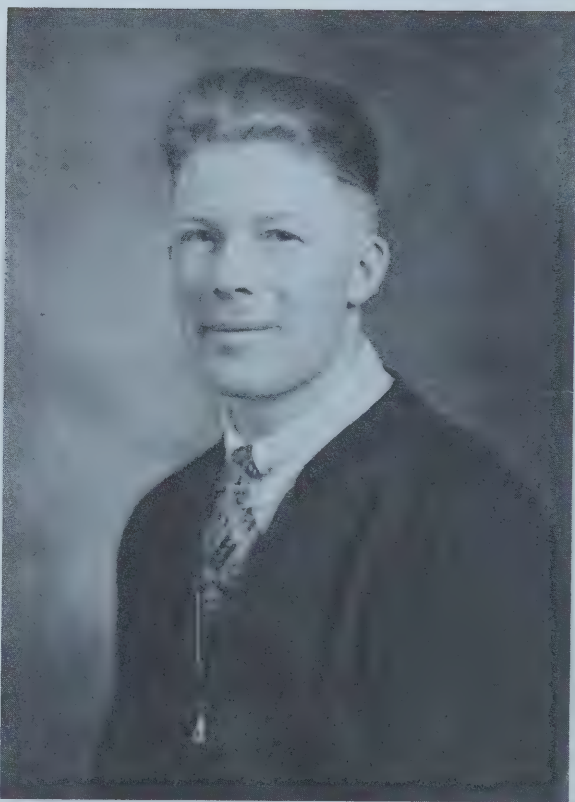
Harriet and Lon Cail, about 1930.



Stan and Lil Potter, Alan Potter, David Potter.



Pedestrian bridge built about 1947 over the Swan River on the old Riggs place. Purpose was to accommodate crossing of school children. High water and roots on an old spruce tree took it out before the kids got a change to use it.



Bill Glover, homesteaded north of Kinuso — 1930's.



D.R. Pierce, Frank Clark and Andrew Anderson.



Archie Craddock and Scotty McNeil.



Mr. and Mrs. Bradford and Hilda Bale.



Mrs. Bradford.



Homeward bound from blueberrying, August 31, 1950.



Mike McNamara.



Blueberry pickers.
Back row: Harry Sangster, Laurie Kusch, Jenny Sangster, Orville Sloan, Dorothy Sloan, Jean Quinn.
Front row: Charlie Kusch, Stanley Sloan, Clarence Quinn, June Quinn.



Harry Walker's homestead home.



Fred McDaniel in 1950.



1961 Flood, Vena Lyness rowing boat close to her house.



First Oil Rig — 1957.



Pete Courtorielle.



Virginia and Harry Wileman and family.



The men that built the Pedestrian Bridge.
Left to right: Steve Winters, Jimmie Adams, Government
employees of bridge crew. Good wood pile in Jimmie Adams' yard.



Willard and Nina Grono. Willard was the first white baby born in
the Valley — 1913.



Grandpa Van Der Mark and baby moose.



High Tower Oil Rig 26 miles south of Kinuso.



Riding old Paint.



Harry Wileman (milking time).



Billy and Jenny L'Hirondelle.



Left to right: George Robinson, Caroline Robinson, Evelyn Robinson and Mike McNamara.



Orville Sloan and Laurie Kusch, blueberry picking.



Harry Sangster's boat taking blueberry pickers across the lake.



Sam and Claude Sloan.



Pet moose of George Sheldon's.



Mr. M.V. Rice and Mr. D.R. Pierce standing in front of their shack beside their store, 1915.



1966 — Fred Pruden of Faust in Kinuso Sports Parade.



Picture of a boy (student) taken in the Lysne's kitchen after a day of playing hooky.



Ted Nome.



Mrs. Whitecotton - Olive Walker - Vera Whitecotton inside Walker Store (tent) - 1914.



Walker Hotel — 1918-19 — which burned down.

Chapter Thirteen

Diary Excerpts



Mr. Twin A Cree Indian

An interview with Mr. Twin by Art Thorburn

A few years ago, a group of us were searching for details of the past to reconstruct the History of Kinuso.

Although this was now some years ago and a bit vague, a particular happening comes to mind. So I will try and relate the experience as best I can.

On the Reserve near town there lived "Mr. Twin" a Cree Indian, believed to be 102 or 103 years old,

and his woman who was 90. For his age Mr. Twin was remarkably clear in sight and mind.

One morning I saw their boy Frank whom I knew slightly. I told him I would like to interview his Dad. He said that they were home and he would come with me.

The frame house was of two rooms with a curtain over the door between. The first room contained an old couch, a table, a stove, an old wooden arm chair, two other chairs, and a small cupboard.

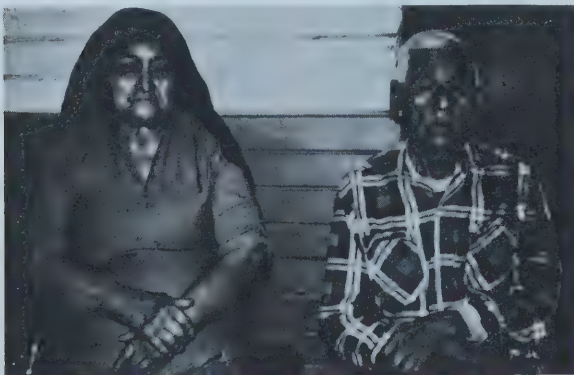
As we entered the house, we found the two of them seated in the front room, she at the table and he in the arm chair. She immediately got up and went through the curtain to the back room. Neither of them spoke English.

Frank apparently told the old man why I was there, in his native tongue, and then asked me what I would like to know?

I asked, "How does he remember the old days, and how are they different from now?"

Frank interpreted. The old man sat quietly in his chair looking at nothing in a far corner of the room. After a minute like this he then looked at me and then began to speak to Frank. After quite a lengthy talk with the odd nod of his head, and a slight arm gesture, Frank interpreted.

He says, "The old days were best. The Indians were still a free people. The Indians moved back and



Julienne and Edward Twin.

forth along the lake in the winters." Small bunches moved through the valleys hunting and trapping in the falls, and moving back along the lake in the winters. He can see ducks and geese taking off in the clouds that you could not see through, the waters of the lake full of fish and the hills full of game and wild things. Game was already being killed with the muzzle loaded guns that had been traded for.

I asked, "Did they kill lots of ducks and geese." Frank interpreted. "The old man was quiet for some time. Then his woman talked from behind the curtain to him. Then he talked more.

Frank interpreted, He said "they mostly ate fish from the water. They used nets which the Indians made themselves from trade goods."

His woman talked again through the curtain, and Frank interpreted. She said, "One large net would be about forty yards long."

I asked, "What kind of shelter did they live in?" More silence, and again his woman talked through the curtain. Then he seemed to answer her but Frank interpreted. "Shelters was mostly tepees made by putting the upright poles side by side, and covering them with spruce boughs, moss, grass, and mud."

The old woman spoke again, and again Frank interpreted. "Some harder working Indians used bark for covering the poles."

I asked, "Did they use animal hides on some?" The old woman spoke again. Frank interpreted. "The skins and furs were all used for clothing and sleeping.

Then the old man spoke on his own. Frank said, "Later came small shacks made from logs and mud, some with log floors."

I asked, "What else do you remember that was so different to now?" Frank interpreted. Long silence, then the old woman talked through the curtain. Then the old man talked through the curtain. Then there seemed to be a real exchange for a couple of minutes between the two of them. Frank interpreted. "Eating was mostly by hand. Some carved spoons found their way into birch bark dishes. A washing tub was carved from a log."

There was then an exchange between Frank and the old man. Frank said, "About seventy years ago the first Priests came, and with them the knowledge of constructing cooking ovens from clay which the Indians soon adopted."

Another exchange between Frank and the old man. Frank said, "The first trade stores were at Slave Lake, and then at Grouard. He remembers when Edmonton had only one large trade store. The journey was made mostly by boat, and partly by horse pulled two wheel carts." The next silence seemed to end the conversation, then the old man spoke again. Frank interpreted. "The old man thinks still the old days were better."

I then asked Frank if it would be all right for me to take a picture, and he asked the old man. He seemed to think for a minute, and Frank said something more to him. Then the old man replied, "Okay."

I then asked if I could have a picture of him and his wife together? There was quite a three way conversation between Frank and the old man, and the old

woman behind the curtain. A short silence and then she did come out shyly and solemn faced.

I indicated to Frank that she might stand beside the arm chair and she did this when he asked. I took two pictures, having Frank thank them and telling them that I would bring them one picture when I got them back. The old man nodded. I think he was pleased.

I thanked Frank and left. It was a memorable experience.

JESSE SLOAN — PIONEER

By Dennis Ferguson

Written For: Dr. J. W. Grant MacEwan
History 436 — Section 01

March 27, 1975

Outline

- Part 1 - Early History of the Sloan Family in the United States.
 - Reasons for their various moves, ultimately to Canada.
- Part 2 - Circumstances which led to the search for a new home.
 - World Wheat Prize in the Peace Country.
- Part 3 - History of the Grouard area to which they moved.
 - Arrival of the railroad.
- Part 4 - The move north in three trips.
 - How they chose their present location.
- Part 5 - Early Days in Swan Valley.
 - Economic dependence on Grouard.
 - Indians.
- Part 6 - Through the Twenties.
 - Depression years.
 - Diversification of Economy.

Introduction

In the Peace River Country, at High Prairie, lives ninety-three year old Jesse Sloan, who came to



Left to right: Lawrence and Dan Sloan, seated is Jesse Sloan. Taken in the Nursing Home in High Prairie.

Canada from the United States in 1908. He has seen great changes in the Peace River area during his lifetime and has in his possession a clear mind and a memory for dates, names and happenings that would boggle many men younger than himself. An attempt will be made in this paper to record the more significant of these memories and to tie them into the history of Western Canada, and more specifically, the history of the area of the Peace River Country where he settled.

Part 1

Jesse Sloan was born on a forty acre farm near Wauseka, in Crawford County, Wisconsin. Forty acres was a normal sized farm for the area as work was done largely by hand. The Sloan farm was on the Kickapoo River, eighteen miles from where it emptied into the Mississippi.

"I never knew anyone further back than my Grandfather, William W. Sloan, I heard he came from Ireland. He was in the Civil War and Grandma Sloan's brother was in the same war."*

*Quotations in this paper are extracted from taped interviews with Mr. Sloan. These interviews took place on January 3, 4, and 5, 1975 at the J. B. Wood Nursing Home in High Prairie, Alberta.

Their living came from mixed farming, sourgum cane, grain, apples, horses, cows, pigs, and chickens. Mr. Sloan reports the family make barrels of molasses from the cane which sold for \$1.50 (40 gallons). Wisconsin weather permitted wild grapes to grow, "We used to build a rail fence around our farm and then wild grapes would get started and we had grapes all around our place." Their main cash crop was cattle, horses, and pigs, however, and when the Depression of 1884-5, hit they began to look for better things. "People got hard up and you couldn't sell things, cows got down to \$10.00 apiece, horses you couldn't sell them at all."

The family moved to open prairie country in Iowa. "Better land and lots of different kinds of machinery, I didn't see a binder until I went to Iowa, we used to cradle our grain, a farmer wouldn't have more than forty acres in Wisconsin, and in Iowa there would be quarter sections or half sections." The family live in Iowa for seven years, but were again forced to move for the same reasons. Depressed conditions, inability to produce a cash crop still plagued them, "We wasn't making any money or getting ahead in Iowa. I can remember selling pigs for about \$2.00, when feed consumed was worth \$3.00, that way we was going behind to feed them. We had hog cholera, you had to destroy the pigs, burn the ground."

One of Mr. Sloan's boyhood memories revolves around the local custom of harvest picnics. He had obtained a plot of ground in a thicket of trees from his uncle and undertook the enterprise of growing watermelons. After a successful season, "I took a wagon box of watermelon to the picnic and got \$2.40 for all of them. I spent half of it riding on the merry-go-round for one cent a minute."

In 1900, the third move was completed, this time to North Dakota. This time there was more success,

their first crops gave them more than they had paid for the land (\$14.00/acre for some, \$7.00 for others). With this promise for a future, Mr. Sloan's father-in-law, Mr. Cupps (he was married to Nellie Cupps in 1903) built a big barn, a house, and ten granaries. Much of this success was due to the first crops of flax, "We would break the land, double disk it, and sow flax. Flax paid \$1.85 a bushel at first." With this promise of prosperity many enterprising people, Mr. Sloan's father-in-law included, over extended themselves at the bank, and when crops in later years (1901-1907) failed to produce as had been expected, troubles arose. "Poor management" is what Mr. Sloan attributes it to, and when Mr. Cupps backed a machinery dealer on a note for a quantity of machinery who subsequently went out of business, he was forced into receivership.

This of course, had an adverse effect on the whole group: Mr. Sloan and his new wife Nellie, Mr. Cupps and his family, and Mr. Hunt and his family, again began to look for better things. "It seems we had been in a habit of moving every ten years," says Mr. Sloan. This habit was certainly helped along by economic conditions. Mr. Sloan reports that 12-15 bushels per acre were about the best they could do in those years and the going price for number 4 wheat (the most common grade) was \$.60 a bushel, "number 2 was as good as you could raise and this sold for \$.75 a bushel."

Part 2

As we can see from Part 1, economic conditions, monetary difficulties leading to financial losses, coupled with dry weather and the resultant poor crops, all contributed to the failure of the farming enterprise which Mr. Sloan and the circle of families to which he belonged — had undertaken.

Other circumstances were to have an effect on the group. In 1896, when Clifford Sifton became Minister of the Interior in the new Liberal government in Ottawa, he set out to attract more immigrants than ever before.¹ This action was to affect millions of immigrants from all over the world seeking free land. Many of these came from the United States where the land rush was over by 1900, most available land having been taken up by this time.

¹J. W. Grant MacEwan, *A Short History of Western Canada*, (Toronto: McGraw-Hill Ryerson, 1968), p. 102.

According to Mr. Sloan: "It was advertised all over the United States when Sheridan Lawrence won the World Wheat Prize," (this was actually in 1892). Posters were placed in towns all across the states and helped to change many people's conception of the land to the north. "A lot of people from the part of North Dakota where we were went to Claresholm, Alberta — They were all wheat crazy, big machinery came in. Gas tractors were just coming in and people were changing from steam." Many people foresaw a fortune in wheat and "Everyone was going to Peace River or bust and they busted," says Mr. Sloan. Sheridan Lawrence's World Prize wheat had been

grown in Fort Vermillion, about 350 miles north of Edmonton and this served to show that land in more northern latitudes was indeed suitable for grain growing.

When the circle of families to which Mr. Sloan and his family belonged decided to move north into Canada it was with the idea that their final destination would be the Peace River Country of Alberta. It is interesting to note that in 1906, when Mr. Cupps, Mr. Sloan's father-in-law came to Canada to investigate conditions for securing a homestead, he could have had his choice of land *anywhere* in Alberta or Saskatchewan, "But," says Mr. Sloan, "Hunt's folks and my father-in-law — who was the head of our bunch — wanted nothing but Peace River." It is this single-minded purpose that guided the families for the next few years.

Part 3

At this juncture it is necessary to include an early history of the Grouard district, the only town in the Peace River district, at the time of the arrival of the Sloan family in 1907.

Grouard, originally Waterloo, was built by the Hudson's Bay Company in 1814, to carry out their trade in furs. It later developed into a thriving town on the only transportation route to the north. The town is situated on the northern tip of Lesser Slave Lake where canoe traffic and later York boats carried their freight in and furs out. In later years steam boats which could run down the Slave River as far as Mirror Landing (present day Smith, Alberta) connected every navigable river in the north in an impressive system which included the Peace and Smokey Rivers as well. The stretch of land from Grouard to Peace River Landing was necessary to bridge the gap between the river systems. This stretch was covered by two wheeled "Red River Carts" and later by team and wagons.

The Centennial Book Committee of High Prairie District reports that, "In 1899, a hamlet was built two miles north of later Grouard, on the flats of the lake. In 1900, the lake rose twelve feet and the hamlet was flooded and everybody had to move to higher ground."² The original name — Waterloo, had been changed to Lesser Slave Lake some time after 1914, and in 1900, the town decided to change the name to Grouard, in honor of Bishop Grouard, a Roman Catholic Priest.

²Centennial Book Committee, F.W.U.A. Local 204, *Pioneers Who Blazed the Trail*, (High Prairie: South Peace News, 1968), p. 15.

Between 1900 and 1915, Grouard grew from a hamlet to a town and had promise of becoming one of the major centres of the north. At its peak the town boasted — "thirty-two stores, an Indian Office, blacksmithing and carpenter trades"³ with a main street a mile long. News of a railroad to the Peace River Country must have excited residents of the day and when construction began, land speculation reached a peak. The Edmonton Journal reveals an ad (Appendix A) showing the Edmonton Land Com-

pany had purchased lots on speculation and were out to profit by it. It would seem to have been a sure thing, for Grouard was the only centre in the area, "the best authorities agree that Grouard will rapidly develop into an important city."⁴ However, the Edmonton, Dunvegan and British Columbia Railroad had ideas of their own.

In a lecture January 16, 1975, Paul Voysey recounted numerous instances where C.P.R. and Canadian Northern authorities thwarted the efforts of speculators who were out to make a dollar buying land on the railroad route and selling it to the business which sprang up as a result of the railroad's presence. Railroad authorities simply re-routed the railroad to land which they had taken the trouble to purchase beforehand and thus secured those profits for themselves. Appendices B and C are copies of the original Certificates of Title for the land on which the town of High Prairie sits today and serve as strong evidence to support this theory.⁵

³Centennial Book Committee, p. 17.

⁴*Edmonton Journal*, Friday February 23, 1912.

⁵Lecture by Paul Voysey, Graduate student at the University of Calgary, January 16, 1975. Material is from his unpublished, as yet, M.A. Thesis.

The building of the railroad where it presently is, effectively doomed the town of Grouard. The new railroad of course, stopped river traffic between Edmonton and Grouard, stopped the freighting business for the many who took part in it and caused most of the businesses in Grouard to move to the railroad office.

The coming of the railroad had an effect on immigration into the Peace River Country, although settlers had begun to come previously the majority never arrived until after it was completed. The population of the Peace River Country went from 3,360 in 1911, to 10,875 in 1916, and to 18,539 by 1921,⁶ and indication of the effect of the Edmonton, Dunvegan and British Columbia Railroad. The railroad bypassed Grouard with their construction in 1914 and had economic effect on the Sloan family as well.

⁶James G. MacGregor, *A History of Alberta*, (Edmonton: Hurtig Publishers, 1972), p. 242.

Part 4

In Part 2, we have followed the history of the Sloan family and the larger group of which they were a part, and left them putting out feelers and deciding to move north to Canada. This was accomplished in three trips, the first of which was previously mentioned, that of Mr. Sloan's father-in-law, Mr. Cupps who made the journey via railroad in 1906.

Mr. Cupps disembarked from the train in Edmonton, then a thriving metropolis of 25,000, looked around for land, and decided to acquire land west of Westlock. This accomplished he returned to North Dakota to report his actions to the group. "Then the Peace River deal came up and he had a time getting it changed," reports Mr. Sloan. Advertising had taken

place in 1906, and had determined the group to settle for nothing less than farming in the Peace River Country. Their intended destinations would be around Peace River Landing, or perhaps Berwyn where some settlement had already taken place, no exact decision had been made.

The second trip was undertaken in June 1907. Mr. Cupps and Mr. Sloan departed from Kensal, North Dakota with nine work horses, a mower, a rake, and three wagons, a disc, and two plows. The abundance of machinery was the result of the ill-fated backing of the note of a machinery dealer mentioned in Part 1, but which could now be put to an useful purpose. The decision had been reached for the two to go ahead and secure the land and prepare for the rest of the group to come later. They travelled 25 miles to the Soo Line Railroad which took them to Moose Jaw — via Portal on the international boundary. This was on a famous "Immigrant Car" in which an individual could ship his stock, machinery, household goods, and one person who rode with it to look after the stock. Mr. Sloan reports immigrant rates were \$50.00 per car, "about one third of normal rates." From Moose Jaw with the C.P.R. to Calgary, thence to Edmonton.

A memory of the trip is the train ride between Medicine Hat and Calgary. "A big rancher had unloaded a whole trainload of cattle a couple days before a big snowstorm struck," says Mr. Sloan, "All the low places and deep ravines the cattle were there yet when we came. They'd drifted in the storm and every place there was a ravine, they piled in there and never got out. They said that storm came in May."

After a brief stay in Strathcona (now a part of Edmonton) to prepare for the journey north, during which Mr. Cupps was successful in disposing of his previously acquired land west of Westlock, the pair (accompanied by two hired hands who had come from North Dakota with them), struck out for the north.

The trail took them to Athabasca Landing, from which point the usual summer practice was to go by steamboat from there to Mirror Landing. However, Mr. Sloan tells us that very summer, "Was the first year the road had come through, the government put the road around the elbow of the Athabasca River and made it 25 miles farther." It was still necessary to cross the Athabasca River as no provision had been made for a ferry, leaving a formidable obstacle for the three heavily laden wagons. "The head fellow of the Hudson's Bay Company outfit said he'd cross us for so much, he used scows and crossed our wagons, we swam our horses." They were now able to proceed via the new road to Mirror Landing, and to a stroke of fate which awaited them.

While resting at Mirror Landing, the southern end of the portage from the Athabasca River to the Slave River at Saulteaux Landing, a distance of sixteen miles,⁷ The group began to realize that a certain amount of cash was going to be needed to proceed by steamboat to their destination. In conversation with the Hudson's Bay Company man at Mirror Landing they were told, "he'd seen the nicest potatoes and rutabagas he'd ever seen in his life, hay grew as high

as your head and he didn't see any need of a fella going any further north, when there was land like that laying there, then he told about the fish in the lake, and said you could kill a moose right on your own farm." He also told them about the Dykeman family who had lived in this spot, called Swan Valley, who had built a house there about 1898, lived in it a few years and left the country. The reason given was that this Dykeman had several children who were deprived of an education and he moved back to civilization to rectify that situation (later rumors, not substantiated, were that it was part of a bootlegging operation which involved Jim Cornwall, of Breden & Cornwall, a trading company, also who owned the "Northland Sun" a riverboat, and also later to be the first M.P. for Grouard riding).

⁷L. V. Kelly, "North with Peace River Jim," Glenbow Alberta Institute, Historical Paper No. 2, p. 15.

Their curiosity whetted, and aided by the lack of funds to proceed via steamboat, the group left Mirror Landing, determined to look at this land. There were no legal claims to land in this area for it had not as yet been surveyed and "squatters rights" prevailed. On reaching Slave Lake, they then proceeded to look for the spot that was to become their home for generations to come. He found the Dykeman house, after following the Swan River south from where it flows into Lesser Slave Lake, in a fairly large, open area that seemed to promise everything the Hudson's Bay man had said it would. He returned to Slave Lake post and brought in the rest of the group.

Thus settled and after helping with preparations to make their stay permanent, Mr. Sloan returned to Edmonton and from there to North Dakota, leaving his father-in-law and his hired help to prepare for the large group.

Mr. Cupps then proceeded back to Edmonton in late winter and wired to North Dakota that he was there. In April 1908, Mrs. Cupps and her children, along with an adopted grandson, Howard Posey, shipped another immigrant car containing the last of their possessions and came to Edmonton. Mr. Sloan and his family remained in North Dakota, to put in crops and attempt to salvage some profit from the release of the considerable amount of land the group possessed (some of which was tied up with the banks as mentioned in Part 1). Meanwhile, Mr. Cupps proceeded north with his family, and on reaching Athabasca Landing his wife became ill and was hospitalized there — never to recover, and never to glimpse their intended home. He was forced to leave her in the hospital and continue his journey to Swan Valley, only to return and transport her to better facilities in Edmonton where she died.

A considerable amount of time has now elapsed, a favourable crop was taken off in North Dakota, 135 acres of Mr. Cupps' land and 130 acres of Mr. Sloan's. "This gave me the money to get out of debt . . . it went about 37 bushels to the acre and it was malting barley. I got \$.85 per bushel (\$4,088.50) my own horses I sold." When Mr. Cupps wired the second time that he was in Edmonton, Mr. Sloan and his

family left North Dakota for good. "It was 1909, before we left Edmonton — that was when him and Glennie (Mr. Cupps' daughter) came to meet us — we came right away when we got the wire." They ate Christmas dinner in Strathcona, and left Edmonton on January 4, 1909. This time, travelling in winter on sleighs, the hardships of river crossings, muskegs were not a problem, but the winter weather provided other obstacles. They tell of covering their wagon with canvas after having installed a wood heater and beating the cold in this manner. They arrived in Swan Valley on January 27, — 23 days on the trail, during what is the coldest month of the year. The party brought with them the necessary furniture to set up housekeeping, including the all important cookstove. The cookstove owned by Jessie and Nellie Sloan was a "Home Comfort" and had been given to them as a wedding gift from Mr. Cupps. The purchase price was \$75.00.

Part 5

The early history of Grouard town, as mentioned in Part 3, showed a bustling centre which derived a large part of its business from its strategic position on the only transportation route to and from the Peace River Country. The group now situated in Swan Valley came to depend on this ready market for their farm produce. The greatest employer of men with teams of horses was the freight hauling business, carried out year round, but peaking in the winter when the trip could be made on the ice with sleighs. In the summer, the steam boats carried the bulk of the traffic.

The winter of their arrival Mr. Sloan joined in the freight hauling business, "It took a month for a round trip between Edmonton and Grouard," says Mr. Sloan, "That first winter we came in I'm thinking of staying in Edmonton and working with a couple of teams (this was hauling coal to Edmonton from a nearby mine), wages for a man and team wouldn't amount to \$100.00 a month and his expenses would be half of it." So Mr. Sloan engaged his team hauling freight from Edmonton to Grouard for the Revillon Brothers Trading Company. "We got \$3.00 per hundred from Edmonton to Grouard and we'd take about 3500 pounds — also about 800 to 1000 pounds flour (which sold for \$2.75 per hundred), about 200 pounds sugar, tea, coffee. Our grub bill was about \$300.00 for a year. Three trips would pay for it." His father-in-law Mr. Cupps also took part in the freight hauling.

The group soon found the Swan Valley was indeed a good place to grow vegetables and hay as they had been told by the Hudson's Bay man at Mirror Landing. Vegetables would "sell like hotcakes" in Grouard, and Mr. Sloan reports that, "The first couple years we got by by making the trip to Edmonton with a couple of teams, then we began raising potatoes and hauling them to Grouard. We got \$3.00 to \$4.00 a sack, we would take about 35 sacks."

In 1910, Grouard did such a booming business supplying freighters that it "had 10 or 12 eating places alone." The Swan Valley group came to depend on

this market for their livelihood, "If it hadn't been for the market of selling the vegetables, why I don't know what we'd have done. I believe we'd starved out and had to have left."

Indians from the Sucker Creek Reserve, not far from Swan Valley would often pass by the settlement on their way to hunt moose in the Swan Hills. Mr. Sloan recounts their trading which grew to the benefit of all concerned. "You could get three white fish for \$.25 or a quarter of meat for \$3.00" but often the trade was not for cash, but sugar or tea, "We used to give them twice as much as they could get at Grouard for their meat." These are the famous white fish now fished commercially and sold on a world market.

In 1911, two significant events took place. Mr. Cupps took a team, wagon and harness to Grouard and traded them for eight head of cattle (plus \$200.00), four of these were milk cows. This gave them four cattle each and a start on what would eventually become the major means of livelihood for those who live in Swan Valley. Secondly, construction was completed on the Edson Trail.⁸ This too is significant for the Swan Valley settlers, for it meant that people from the west end of the Peace River Country would use the shorter route to haul freight from Edmonton. "What brought money into the country was people going through, they'd always lay over a day at Grouard, there wasn't big prices at Grouard, you'd put your team away overnight for \$1.00 and \$.50 at noon. And the restaurants would get a haul out of the people." Putting in the Edson Trail had an effect on Grouard and thus on the Sloan family. "Just as soon as that road went around, across from Edson, people from as far as Dunvegan would go the other way." The vegetable business became reduced in 1911, but that same year government survey parties were preparing for the expected influx of settlers and bought their produce. This also meant that the squatters in Swan Valley could now put a legal claim for the land they were settled on — they did not do so until 1912.

1911, also saw a more diversified farming operation. Cattle already have been mentioned, pigs were also raised with little luck at first, until it was discovered they were lacking in iodine, chickens added to the diversification. In this year hay became a cash crop. Baled hay was worth \$1.25 a bale in Grouard, and the same price at the stopping places along the lake. Hay was baled using a homemade press that had been found near Slave Lake, it had served its purpose and had been discarded, "You would press it and tie it with wire," reports Mr. Sloan.

⁸MacGregor, p. 205.

To transport their goods to Grouard for sale took two and sometimes three days for the round trip. Mr. Sloan tells of problems surrounding this venture, and on one occasion while he and Mr. Cupps were hauling hay, "We travelled on ice to Grouard in winter. The ice was usually good into April — ice good in May even, if you went where the water was deep." However on this occasion the ice gave way, "I had a team of horses and my father-in-law had a team of

oxen and where I broke in was closer to shore, water about 7 or 8 feet deep. One horse went in. We had a choke line along — I had it on my team and when my horse broke in the choke line was right on her harness, hanging on the mane. We held her head up and got the line on her, and two lads and I and my father-in-law — we all four pulled her out on the ice, we choked her, and when you choke anything, it'll bob up, and we was lucky. When they bob up they bob clear up out of the water and you just slide them out onto the ice," Their troubles were not over yet, however, for Mr. Cupps had an oxen fall through as they approached their destination. "We had to use one of the horses to get the ox out, that ox weighed a ton," says Mr. Sloan. On the same trip a neighbour, who wasn't nearly so lucky, fell through and drowned both his horses, "The man was alone and had no help."

Protecting their potatoes for sale unfrozen was quite a problem as well, this was overcome by putting a small wood stove in their caboose (a covered wagon box on sleighs). After the vegetables business slowed down Mr. Sloan hauled potatoes to the other centres around the Peace River Country, as far as Saskatoon Lake and Spirit River, both of which had trading posts. Mr. Sloan recounts that he can remember freezing a load of potatoes only once, on a trip to Grouard, the \$3.00 to \$4.00 per sack price applied only to unfrozen potatoes — if they were frozen the price was reduced to \$1.00 a sack. "The Hudson's Bay man would take your unfrozen potatoes and put them in a freight shed anyway (unheated)," reports Mr. Sloan. It was on one such trip, this time to Saskatoon Lake, that Mr. Sloan got his first pigs. "You could trade a sack of potatoes for a 150-200 pound pig," but their luck with pigs was minimal until, as was mentioned earlier, they began to use an iodine mixture to treat them.

The diversification the Swan Valley settlers undertook stood them in good stead — for in 1914, the same year World War I began, the railroad passed the valley and arrived in the settlement at High Prairie. As was mentioned in Part 3 it by-passed Grouard, dooming the town to die a sudden death. Quite naturally it sounded the death knell to the freight hauling business of the teamsters, and the river boats. Land prices for lots in High Prairie rose sharply as Grouard businesses were forced to move to the railroad. It also meant the end of the vegetable and hay market for Swan Valley.

It marked the beginnings of immigration into the Peace River area on a grander scale too. Peace River area population in 1914, was about 8,000, this rose to 18,539 by 1921.⁹ The Edmonton, Dunvegan and British Columbia Railroad (E.D. & B.C.), nicknamed the "Extremely Dangerous and Badly Constructed"¹⁰ aimed itself at the agricultural resources of the Peace River Country. It brought no immediate benefit to the Swan Valley settlers.

The coming of the railroad marked the beginnings of Kinuso town, "Storekeeper, named Walker, worked on the railroad survey, and afterwards got to be the Superintendent of the caches along the railroad

survey, and I guess he made a little money on that, and got started in the store business. He had a tent and he took over some of the supplies left over from the railroad survey and he got started into the store business that way. He started Kinuso town, he was the first one there."

⁹MacGregor, p. 242.

¹⁰Ibid., p. 205.

Part 6

Despite the coming of the railroad and the reputation of the country for grain, the Swan Valley settlers never developed a dependence on the grain market such as homesteaders in other parts of Western Canada did. As Walter D. Young puts it, "Homesteaders were almost entirely dependent upon this one factor — price of wheat — and it was quite beyond their control."¹¹ The diversification to vegetables and later cattle and other livestock did not divert the hard times that grain farmers in other areas experienced, but it lessened it to some degree. Like other homesteaders too, Jesse and Nellie Sloan made the best of what they had. Two of the trunks they shipped from North Dakota got mixed up with someone else's trunks — the two they got each had "fancy stand up lamps in them," these lamps were the object of many jokes from neighbors as they must have appeared out of place amidst the homemade furniture. However, the lamps came wrapped in a trunk full of old clothes — a treasure for with these and the clothes of their own that they brought, Nellie Sloan was able to make good use of her sewing machine as she remade them for her family.

¹¹Walter D. Young, *Democracy and Discontent*, (Toronto: McGraw-Hill Ryerson, 1969), p. 1.

There was no school in Swan Valley until 1912. A Presbyterian minister, Reverend C. J. Sratt approached the settlement to build a church, "He said if we built a church then the church organization would help some and he'd teach school and be minister and school teacher both," reports Mr. Sloan. The church was built in 1911 — school started in 1912. Mr. Sloan was elected to the School board, a position he held until 1930. When the school opened, the Sloan children; Hercel born in 1904, and Cecilia, born in 1905, were among the settlement children to attend. Other additions to the Sloan family to come later were; Harold — 1907, Clifford — 1911, Raymond — 1916, Bertha — 1919, Glenn — 1921, Clarence — 1923, Virgil — 1925, Lawrence — 1929, and Leo — 1931. All except Clifford were born at home, and he was born in Grouard when Mrs. Sloan decided to have a doctor's care for his birth. A trip was made prior to the expected date — only to find the doctor had temporarily left town previously to attend patients elsewhere. Mrs. Sloan is reported to have suffered enough discomfort to make her determined to remain at home for subsequent births.

The social life of the settlement consisted of Box Social, Masquerade Dances and Hard Time Dances, held in the school after 1912. This was also the year

the first July 1, celebration was held. Mr. Sloan's father-in-law sponsored the event and it was attended by all the settlement, it included too, the Cree Indians from the nearby Sucker Creek Reserve who moved in and set up their tents. Baseball was a popular sport amongst settlers and Indians alike, "The school at Jossard (residential school run by the Catholic Church) — them boys had got so they'd play ball, some of them was pretty good ball players, we had a ball game and of course us settlers would play against them. Some of us hadn't played before — we had a storekeeper who had played in leagues and he had a little drop when he pitched and that'll fool them. If it hadn't been for that why we wouldn't have stood a chance at all." The first of July celebrations have been a continuous annual event since that time, but came under the sponsorship of the United Farmers of Alberta (U.F.A.)

The rise to power of the U.F.A. had its effects on the settlement. Mr. Sloan reports that, "A fellow named Fields, a strong supporter of the Co-op around 1916, organized a local chapter." They later took over the July First celebration and became the central body for entertainment, holding weekly dances. A community hall sponsored by the U.F.A. was built in Kinuso in 1919, by volunteer labour, using money raised from subscriptions. Here is a fine example of how the U.F.A. put its roots down in an Albertan community — by controlling the lives of its members through the only organization they had, its move to political power was the next logical step.

During the 1920's all the available land in the settlement was taken up by homesteaders. An elevator was built in Kinuso in expectation of trade but grain never became of importance to the settlement. Later, the elevator was moved and was not replaced until 1940. Grain was grown, but for local trade only, or to be fed to stock. Mr. Sloan reports that he used horsepower right up to 1939, when he obtained his first tractor. In the late twenties people began to leave the valley. The Depression had come to the settlement just as it had to the rest of Canada. "At first every quarter had settlers, then when times got rough lots began to move out," says Mr. Sloan. Kinuso town had grown to include a Blacksmith, Hotel, Poolroom, Barber Shop, and two stores as well as a train station. The town went into a decline which resulted in some of these businesses moving out, as the elevator had previously done. "The Depression came in 1929-1930, and lasted until 1940," reports Mr. Sloan. He goes on to say, "The worst years was 31-32, we had lots of milk, cows, pigs, chickens, but we couldn't buy nothing. We couldn't sell anything for anything. I remember having a steer I was going to sell to get some money to get something. The butcher offered me \$16.00 for the 3 year old steer and I wanted \$17.00 — anyway I didn't sell him. I shipped him and when I got my cheque back, and freight and yardage taken off I got only \$12.50 — 1250 pounds, that's \$.01 a pound." A receipt for 5 pigs (Appendix D) shipped in 1932, shows an example of prices received for stock and adds a note of interest.

The Depression years were hard years for the

Sloan family as they were for all Canadians, but the diversity of their farming operations enabled them to produce for themselves the necessities of life, especially food. Many Canadians were lining up at soup kitchens and their story is well known. Farmers were probably better off than most, simply because they could grow their own.

The Sloan family farm is still in the family — being operated by two of Jesse Sloan's grandchildren. He contributed to the country not only the farmstead and his pioneering efforts but 158 living descendants of which 47 are grandchildren, 90 great-grandchildren, and 19 great-great grandchildren.

It has been the purpose of this paper to tell the history of Jesse Sloan and his family in a true and accurate manner.

On August 19, 1975 at the J.B. Wood Nursing Home, Jesse Sloan passed away. He was buried in the Swan Valley Cemetery next to his wife Nellie Sloan, who died on the thirtieth of April, 1969.

The Trip From Edmonton Over The Hills To Swan River Valley

On September 14, 1910, a party of 6 consisting of George E. Cornell, Mr. and Mrs. George W. Moore, Mr. F. W. Clark, Mr. J. L. Harrison and Mr. W. Bochus left Strathcona (now South Edmonton) to travel by ox team to settle down in an area near Grande Prairie, which Dad (Mr. George Cornell) had visited the following spring. Due to early onset of winter, resulting in lack of feed for the stock, and



Mr. and Mrs. George Moore, just leaving Edmonton for greener pastures in the Grande Prairie area, September 1910.

very bad road conditions they were compelled to winter in Swan River Valley, as it turned out they liked the area so well, all took up homesteads within the next few months. Members of the Cornell family and the Moore family still own and occupy their original homestead lands.

The trip, a distance of some 275 miles, was one of adventure, hardship and courage which only a true pioneer could withstand.

The outfit consisted of 5 yoke of oxen, 2 saddle horses, 1 work bull and 1 milk cow. Each man drove a yoke of oxen pulling a wagon or caboose, the total weight of equipment and supplies came to about 8900 pounds, which included a mowing machine and a horse rake.

The horses were sometimes packed, but most frequently used for rounding up the oxen each morning and for riding ahead to investigate the next few miles of trail before proceeding with the ox wagons. Frequently a piece of road or even a bridge had to be fashioned from available material (logs or brush) to make possible the passage of the wagons. Mud holes were the cause of many delays. Whereas on good road the men would put one yoke of oxen to each wagon, in mud holes or going up hill it was necessary to put two or even three yoke on each load. This procedure was of course time consuming. On the other hand in going down the steep hills of the river banks it was frequently good. There were many maintenance chores to do, such as harness repair, oiling the wagon's wheels etc.

From Both Dad's and Mrs. Moore's diaries the time spent daily in rounding up the oxen was considerable. However, it was necessary that the cattle be allowed to graze as feed was frequently scarce and the animals would not have had sufficient to eat had they been tethered. Sometimes they wandered back as far as the previous night's camp ground and had to be rounded up by one of the men on horseback the next morning. This was most provoking as it meant a real delay in that day's journey.

It is interesting to note that in each day's account in Dad's diary feed for the stock is mentioned. In Mrs. Moore's diary, feed for the people!

Mrs. Moore, a bride of a year, was a true pioneer and a real heroine on this expedition. She frequently walked behind the wagons to lighten the load, on a whole day's trip. Later she would ride Kid (Dad's Horse), but she was always responsible for preparing 3 meals a day for 6 people. This was sometimes done on a cook stove in a tent, and sometimes over a campfire. When the camp was made in one place for a day or two at a time she would take advantage of this to make up to 200 to 300 biscuits and half a dozen johnny cakes. Each day's diary entry refers to partridges being shot by one member or the other of the party. A frequent meal consisted of chicken (partridge), dumplings, potatoes, biscuits, milk and tea. The milk was supplied by the Moore's cow, "Daisy," which Mrs. Moore often led on the the day's trek. When she later took to riding horseback, the cow would bawl for her. "Daisy" became quite a pet and would join the six people at the bonfire each

evening. She even liked to be sat upon as she lay down by the fire.

The trip was not without its humorous incidents:

—One day Mrs. Moore was leading Daisy across a creek. The cow pulled back suddenly and Mrs. Moore had an abrupt and wet sit-down!

—On Oct. 16th Mrs. Moore tells that it was pouring rain when one wagon, loaded with precious supplies tipped over in a creek. There was a great hustle and bustle to rescue the goods. A tent was hastily put over them with the result that damage to provisions was slight, but all the men soaked to the skin. They built a huge bon-fire and everyone was in good cheer though by bed time the rain had turned to snow. The next day's diary entry by Mrs. Moore: "While we were eating dinner the oxen or horses went to the camp fire where the men had their clothes drying, and kicked or pulled Clark's overalls and shirt into the fire and burned them up. They dragged the blankets, but the men got them before any more damage was done."

—Dad's diary tells of one of the oxen eating a cake of Lifebuoy soap. He was understandably sick the next day!

The road the adventurers followed was a branch of the Klondike trail that led over Swan Hills. Their party was the first wagon expedition to use this particular trail. In the seven weeks the trip took they met several other parties on horseback headed towards Edmonton. Needless to say these encounters were quite an event in the day's trek as of course an exchange of road and feeding conditions was always made. I quote in Dad's own words from a letter he wrote to Sidney A. MacDonald (later his brother-in-law) in Feb. 1911 and from the postscript he wrote in his diary in March 1958: After leaving Edmonton we travelled in a North-West direction crossing the Pembina River at Belvedere, the whole town consists of one store and three houses scattered over about a mile of country. We had our outfit ferried across the river, then continued on towards the Athabasca River, the roads continually getting worse. Sometimes we had three or four oxen on one load. We reached Home's Crossing and had our outfit ferried across again. The Athabasca is a fine stream, some six or seven hundred feet wide with banks two or three hundred feet high. After crossing here we headed for Swan Hills or Deer Mountain. The roads continued getting worse. Sometimes we had two yoke of oxen fastened to the wagons and two yoke on a block (with tackle), using 7/8 inch rope. The axels would trail in the mud.

After we got up in the hills feed for oxen became scarce and they grew weak and poor.

After reaching the summit of Deer Mountain it was like being in another world from what we had been through. The Swan Hills were very poor soil, very small scrubby trees, mostly jack-pine and scrubby poplar.

Some of the valley has a small strip along the creek. The tops of the mountain was open with a very few scrub jack pines scattered here and there, only a few feet high. Sometime in the past there had been a

large forest fire. The north side of the mountain was covered with small trees growing very thick, mostly spruce. There was a fine view from the top. We could see Lesser Slave Lake from there. There was a lot of good timber; the country had been burnt over in spots; young trees were growing everywhere.

After we started down the mountain we soon came to Swan River, near its source. After we reached the river I took the two saddle horses and went ahead. Some of the people that we met told us there were a couple of families in the valley that we could get some grain from. When I got down, the valley widened and the cotton wood trees were very large. Some of them were 3 to 4 feet at the stump, very tall with low limbs.

The first sign of settlement was a house partly finished located on Swan Creek. Jim Posey had the walls up, but no roof on it. About one and half miles further was Jesse Sloan's place. He had a small log house. I was told that I could get grain by a man that I met on the trail from Mr. J. C. Hunt who lived further down the road. I did not stop to talk to Mr. J. Sloan. The next place was Mr. George Cupps. He was living in a log house what was built by a fur trader who had moved away. The builder was Mr. Dykeman. (This Dykeman house is still standing in 1977-RH)

I eventually found Mr. J. C. Hunt's place. He had a large family and I bought some sheaf oats from him. I thrashed them myself with a flail and paid \$1.25 per bushel. I had taken both horses with me, packing one with the oats on the return trip. I met the party at the base of the mountain with all the loads but one. The next day we returned with two teams and got the last load safely down just at dark. Those few oats helped us to get the rest of the outfit down to where the feed was. We stopped at Mr. Jesse Sloan's place and bought hay from him.

In crossing the hills we came across many relics of the Klondike rush, old sleighs scattered here and there; now and again we would see old bones of some horse that had gone to his happy feeding ground. I suppose many a man's bones are along the trail too."

Karl Nykar (Better known as Charlie Magnus)

I was born on the Island of Bornholm, Denmark, on the 21 of May 1901, in the city of Hasle.

When I was three years old I had scarlet fever and diphtheria at the same time, but pulled through and got well, it made me immune to any sickness. After that I went to public school up to the sixth grade, that's the highest in that country at the time. I had more interest in playing fishing and sailing, had my own boat by the time I was ten, finished school when I was fifteen.

I was supposed to be a carpenter but the man I was to work with lost a contract and had no work in his own shop at the time, so that was out. I went to work for a farmer friend outside the city for the summer then went back to the city and worked for another farmer on the outskirts for the winter. In the spring I went to a big stone quarry, there I learned to cut and split stone any shape and size there was an order for, I worked there until I was seventeen. In the last part of



Charlie Magnus.

the year I was called into the army and spent three years there, coming home in early 1921. I went out to visit a friend outside the city and he offered me a job so I went home and brought my clothes out the next day. That afternoon I went to the next city to see one of my sisters, got back about midnight and went to bed. About 2:00 A.M. another man came in and woke me up saying "you better get up it's bad weather, thunder and rain," but I said I've slept through thunder storms all my life and nothing ever happened. Just then the lighting struck in the far end of the barn, it went through all the buildings and set things on fire all at once, and I hollered "get the Boss." When the Boss came he said, "get the covered wagon out for the children," that done, he said, "the pigs." There were about two hundred of them and by the time we'd gotten them out it was too late to get my clothes out so I lost everything, but we saved the main house, that was all that was left. Contractors came by the dozen to get the job to rebuild, a contractor in my home city got the job and instead of the old style of square barn, they built a big hiproofed building, sixty yards wide and a hundred and twenty yards long. The big windmill was badly damaged but he got more than he paid for it and more than he paid for a new and different kind, the wings, airplane propeller and ball bearings all around. When the engine came he had to have a man to help and I was the only one that would go up that high, sometimes I had to hang by my leg and use a machine to make holes in the steel frame. We got it up, and down below a special building for a generator and one wall completely filled with batteries to power the whole barn. In the time I was there we were out of power for three days, that was alot cheaper than we get power here. We seem to forget nowadays that the wind is alot cheaper than any thing else in the world.

I went back to work in the stone quarry until I got

the idea to come to Canada in the spring of 1924. I went to Copenhagen to catch the boat, a seven day trip which took ten on account of a severe storm, most of the immigrants had never been on the water before and nearly all of them were sick all the way to Halifax. From there we went to Montreal and then on to Winnipeg by train. We stayed there a few days, until some jobs turned up in Saskatoon for thirteen men. I spent three days there.

One day we were down at the railroad station, an older man came over and ask me where I was from, so I told him and he said "my country" and I found out he used to be our neighbor at home, but had been over here quite a few years so I hadn't recognized him until he told me who he was.

I worked on a farm at Brock and had quite a time to learn to speak English, the farmer had two boys and a girl and I learnt more from them, they never seemed to get tired of explaining. I stayed there until after spring's work in 1928, then bought a car and headed for Calgary and the stampede. I took in three days of that but couldn't get a room any where so I went to a garage with the car and the night man tried to find me a room also, but no luck so I said, "I'll sleep in the car," the guy came over and said, "that's no good, I have a better one over here." It was a big car and he said, "you'll have to be out by seven that's when he's coming for it." He got me some pillows and I had a good sleep.

The next night I headed for Edmonton and stayed on the south side over night, then went over the High Level bridge and got a room at St. Regis Hotel and headed for the employment office to find a job in the Peace River country. The job I found was at Kinuso at Harry Hunts so that's how I landed in Kinuso. I worked for Harry for the rest of the summer and went out trapping in the winter. I didn't make much as big fur was scarce, just the smaller animals so I went back to work for Harry for the summer again and went trapping in the fall doing a little better the second year.

In the winter I went to Peace River and took out a homestead at Nampa but I found out there was no water, my neighbor drilled three wells three hundred feet deep and struck rock. All the water he had came from a dug out behind the barn so I gave up and came back to Kinuso. In 1931 I bought a farm off Harry Walker (the Posey place) stayed there for two years, but it was hard times and no way you could make it, wheat was 10¢ a bushel and oats 6¢. I shipped a steer to Edmonton and got a bill for the freight, later sent two big sows and got six dollars so I decided that is no good, I sold and traded everything except my horses. I had six head of cows left and Jack Ericson bought them, he paid 45 dollars and later came back and told me "I am sorry I can't pay you, I sold the meat on credit and can't collect," but he traded me a wagon later on.

In the fall of 1934 Dick Bowen and I went trapping on the Saultous River, the fall was very nice, no snow before Christmas, I left my snowshoes in the cabin we had built, but before the New Year we had three feet of snow. We could make about three miles a day

in the bush, I would go ahead and break trail and Dick would follow with the dogs, sometimes we had to pull them out of the drifts as they were loaded heavy. The last day I went ahead we had six miles to go and I had quite a few pelts. I made a fire and waited but no Dick, I put my snowshoes on and started back to the meet him, I'd made two miles when I met him. He'd played out and wanted to make camp there for the night but I finally got him back to camp, it was 60 below the next day. A couple of guys from Edmonton were on Ethel Lake, they had two dogs, a homemade sled and four hundred lbs. of grub. They made camp under some jack-pines and started to build a cabin. They were so busy they forgot their camp-fire and all of a sudden there was a big fire, there was about six inches of needles under the jack-pine which had caught fire, they lost everything except 7 lbs. of salt. One of the them had just killed a moose so they were on a straight meat diet from then on as they had no money to go and get more. In the meantime Dick and I had gotten low on grub so I came to town for some. I had left quite a few pelts at the cabin, I had bought two dogs from the two guys on Ethel Lake, when I came up on one road through the valley Dick went down another, that was the last I saw him that winter, he had to go to the hospital for an operation. When I arrived back at my cabin here were the two guys sitting there waiting for us. They had come down to visit and seeing all that fur decided to stay right there and watch it till we returned.

I finally got them to go out to get something to eat, their nerves were bad and they had scurvy, they were awful stubborn but made it through the winter.

In March that year I went across the lake to trap rats with Chris Pederson and Larry Dennis (two boys who were staying at Sangters) and done fairly well returning the middle of May.

In the fall of 1935-36 I took Bob Moody as a partner and in the spring we went to Rochs Lake to trap rats, Frank Moody was with us at the time, the lake had been trapped nearly clean over the winter, but I managed a dozen a day. Bob didn't do that well and he started to Arcie Lake to try his luck, but on the way over he shot himself in the leg and nearly tore the calf off. Frank started out with him, at Chalmers they met Dick Bowen, Bill Labby and Kenny Thomson and went along with them to Kinuso. Bob was in a lot of pain and passed out on the way to the hospital, they had to loosen the bandages and let the blood flow at times. After that Dick came up and stayed until spring with me. In 1936-37 I went out alone. There was a lot of big fur that year and I did quite well travelling all day and skinning fur at night, I didn't have time to get lonesome. One day I went up the Couts River setting traps and on the way back I was passing an open muskeg with alot of white spots. I don't know what brought my attention to it as I was already by it but I turned around and there was a big silvertip grizzly in the middle of the opening, where it had been sleeping. I guess it smelled me as its head was going back and forth, and I was just standing there looking and all of a sudden he was coming for me. I could have shot him but I was more interested in seeing

him close up so I said, "here is where Charlie climbs a tree." I went up a jack-pine, there were limbs like a ladder and I went up fast but when I turned around the grizzly had gone behind a small wide spruce. I pulled around to one side so I could see him but he was just going over a bank about two hundred yards away.



Charlie Magnus with his dog team.

From there I killed a big moose and it was quite late when I hit camp and my horses were gone. I trailed them for eight miles but they never stopped until they got to Harry Hunts where they stayed all winter. I went back to the Coutts River and my camp, the next day I went to get some meat off the moose and there were five black bears there so I shot a couple of them. I spent a couple of days rendering fat. I was just going to leave when the Ranger of the district, Herb Borden, came along, seeing all the fat laying around camp he asked for some, he spent a day rendering it out, he wanted it for his saddle. The next day we left, the Ranger leaving awhile before me, it took me awhile to get everything on the dogs saddle pack, bedroll and other things. I'd gone about five miles, the road was curving with willows on the side. I seen somethings following the road I thought it was the Ranger, but when I came out on a straight place I could see it was grizzly bears, they seen me at the same time and the biggest one went up on his hind legs he must have been about 8 or 9 feet tall. I just stood there and so did my dogs, they were heavily loaded. I had an axe on my shoulders and a lard pail on the end of it. I let it fall back and it hit one of the dogs behind me, he let out a howl and away went the grizzlies and believe me I was very glad. I had only three shells in my gun, not enough for that many. Herb was at the Saultau camp having dinner when I got there, so we ate together. In the afternoon we went to Deer Mountain so Herb could ring the office and report, here we got orders to go down to Foleys and bring grub to House Mountain the next day. We had to put a bridge in across Hungry Horse Creek.

I had Harry Walker order a couple of boards for a toboggan and got Mr. Dow, the blacksmith to make the iron braces, I put it together and went to Roy Fields to get the handles cut, I covered it with moose hide on the sides part way, it was the first toboggan with handles in the country. Going back to the hills I met Dick, and when I asked how he liked my toboggan he said, "That's no toboggan, it's a hay rack,"



Charlie Magnus with pack dogs.

but from then on most of them were made that way. So much for that year.

In the spring of 1937, I wasn't feeling to good, I had hurt myself lifting and had decided to take the summer off and go prospecting. I took one saddle horse and a pack horse and went west. There was a man at Driftpile that used to go and I thought I could get him to go along but he had promised a farmer to stay the summer so I had to go alone. I stopped a couple of days in High Prairie, from there on to the Little Smokey. I stopped at the Post Office at the Smokey River to ask the lay of the land and they had a letter for Fred Freeborn they asked me to take up river to him, as I had known him before I agreed to deliver the letter. I followed a road up river and through the bush until I found Fred's place, he was glad to see me and after he read the letter he asked me to stay while he went to McLennan and if I'd go hunting for some meat, so I went out the next day and got a deer, there was lot of them — Fred came back on the Saturday.

In the last part of August the three of us went up the river to see what we could find, the other two only stayed a couple of days so I stayed alone, I tried all over until I found a place of water grass and in the roots of that I found more, I worked for a few days and got a quart jar full of black sand and gold mixed together.

It was time for me to get back and go into the hills again. I'd made arrangement with one of the boys from Ethel Lake to be my partner for the winter. He came to Kinuso and we got ready to go but the night before we were to leave, Dick Bowen and Earl Rutledge came. Dick was a ranger at the time, he wanted me to come pack for them, there was a fire at Yellowstone Creek, south of House Mountain. I couldn't say no — had to make a map for my new partner as he hadn't been out this way before, he made it to Deer Mountain and the Saultaux River alright.

I started out packing from Foleys, it took two days to get to the fire. Dick sent me hunting for meat to help with the grub, coming back toward camp, I saw a moose but as it saw me first, I didn't get it.

When the fire was out I packed my horses and left as soon as I could. It was late in the fall and there's always lots to do before winter sets in. My partner that winter was John Tiger and we had a fair winter. John stayed with me until the war started, he had

been in the army before so got called up right away. After the war he married a girl from England and settled in Edmonton, built a house there and worked as a brick layer. We have been friends ever since.

I trapped until 1942, then as I had bought two quarters of land I started to farm again. After I got a few animals I couldn't get away every winter. I bought a few sheep and got Harry Adams to look after them one winter. When I got out in the spring the sheep were at Peter Thomsons, and only about half of them left. He told me the coyotes had got them. When I went into town Harry Walker told me it was two legged coyotes as he had bought some of the meat. From then on I stayed home and done a little trapping around the farm.

One spring while I was picking my traps and snares up I could hear a bear cub crying and I knew it was in one of my snares. When I got there two other cubs went up a tree, a big black bear just stood and looked at me, but all of a sudden another came out of the bush, took one look and came for me and believe me I took off. I don't believe I ever ran so fast before but she came only about a hundred yards, she could have easily caught me. I went home and returned with my gun but the older bears had left by this time. I could hear them farther away in the bush, that suited me just as well.

I stayed with farming, got more land, about a hundred head of cattle and a hundred pigs. As I needed lumber for buildings I got a sawmill and a permit for one hundred thousand board feet of lumber. When I finished that I tried for another permit but they had let it out on auction and Imperial Lumber had got the whole thing.

In the fall Gib Rogne and Cecil Mack came in to saw and stayed with us a week. I worked for them on contract, bucking at the landing also some skidding and hauling. I done better than I had working on my own. I farmed in summer and worked in the mill in the winter.

In the spring of 1948 the wolves became quite thick in this area. I was plowing on my third quarter along the creek and the grass was about two feet high, I had seen a few wolves travelling along the creek for a couple of days, we had just lost a colt so I had set a few traps around it, and I caught a big female in one of them. She took trap and all so I had to track her for about a mile to shoot her. I could tell she had pups so went down in the sandhills to look for her den but no luck. On the way back we saw what we thought was a black wolf running through the grass. It was getting late in the evening and I took a shot at it, instead of a wolf, one of Wilfred Hunts black steers came tumbling down the hill, so I sent Lou down to tell him while I started to skin it out. When Wilfred came he said, "we don't get beef very often but we'll sure have some now," he wanted me to take a hind quarter but I said, "it's your meat you do as you like."

The wolves got braver all the time, every time we heard them howl we'd go bring the cattle into the corals at night. For a couple of days we didn't hear them so we left the cattle in the pasture and in the middle of

the night we could hear them doing alot of howling. The next morning I went down to look the cattle over and a big white steer was gone, they had taken him a long way from the others before killing him. I set a dozen traps and snares and caught 13 wolves and six coyotes. Out in the bush in the winter on the logging roads they killed something every night and stayed till there was no game left.

The year a sickness got into the pigs we had to quit raising them and instead went into raising mink and done fairly well off them. In 1957 I had all my crop swathed for the first time, and the day after on the second of October when we got up in the morning there was about four feet of snow on the ground. I thought it would melt off but there was so much water it never got dry enough to get any of it combined that fall, so I thought maybe in the spring. We had alot of hay but with a hundred head of cattle it takes alot of feed and by New Years we were out of hay, so we fed what barley we had from the year before. It made some of the cows sick when they got too much barley and they died. We had to ship most of them, it seemed everybody was in the same boat and had to ship and the price went down to nothing. We rustled straw from all over the country, we managed to pull through the winter and had 32 head left in the spring. We tried combining in the spring but the pickup shook the grain off before it got to the combine and the pigs wouldn't even eat the little I did get. We got into more mink, had a couple of thousand and done well on them.

Sometime during the middle fifties James Ericson and Jack Killeen were coming up the trail and ran into six grizzly bears. They started shooting and wounded three of them before the bears took off, they wanted me to go with them to trail the bears, they had gone about three miles before we caught up to them. I had one of the boys on each side of me, Jackie saw the first one and shot it. The mother bear was wounded badly and had lost alot of blood but was still going. We sat down to wait awhile for her to lay down then got going again. James saw her first and shot her, when we got back to the road I said don't say a word about this as it is strictly against the law to kill grizzlies. But in a few days it was all over the country. The next Sunday about seven in the morning someone was pounding at my door and when I opened it there stood two men, the biggest of the two asked if they could come in. I said "yes" and he told me he was from Whitecourt and his name was Johnson, that he was out of a job and the only thing he could get was to go out and gather bear bones. I asked what he was going to use them for? "I don't know, maybe medicine," he said. They told me in town that you were the only one that could find them again. Finally after alot of talking, Lou said, "go with them, I'll milk the cows." So away we went on the same trail as the Sunday before. I knew the country better and it didn't take long before we got to the first one. They had a sack with them and gathered the bones of the first bear, then the next and so on. The young fellow said, "you must be able to smell them to be able to go straight to them like this." As we got back to the road

where we left the truck, the big guy said, "shooting a female with cubs was about as low as a human being could get." That was the first I had a hint of something being wrong, and I said, "what do you do in a case like that?" and he said, "there are other ways."

I just got home and didn't think more of it when Jack and James (Ericson) came by and told me that was Al Omeing from the Game Farm. I had never seen him before so hadn't known him. He had been in Slave Lake to get the Indian lady that had shot a grizzly with a 22 bullet and in Driftpile but he had no luck there.

He had been in Kinuso for a day and had more information about the bears than I knew myself. A few days later Pat Foley and the head Game Warden for Alberta came to see me. The Warden wanted to know how much damage they had done, and I told him in the last three years we had lost 17 calves and one colt. He said he didn't care how many bears were shot as every man they sent out in the bush risked his life.

The year before a young Ranger from Peace River was sent out to cruise an area to see how many spruce were coming up, he ran into a big black bear and because it was the breeding season of the bears, one bear took after him. He climbed a tree and was kept there for four hours before the bear left. I asked him, "why climb a tree — a bear can climb alot faster than you can," and he said, "I never thought about that. I had never been so scared in my life before." The Game Warden said he'd see Al Omeing and try to get him quieted down, but if he insists, he would have to take me into court. I never heard any more of it after that, so he must have made out talking to him.

I had trouble keeping help on the farm. I was too far from town, even if I paid more than they could get anywhere else. When Lou died in 1963, I had to have 3 or 4 men all summer and still had to do most of the hard work myself. One day at haying time I had a complete outfit going and did the stacking all alone. I felt my heart stop for three beats and start again. A little while later it done the same thing and again the

third time, so I decided it was time to quit.

I sold the farm in 1964 and retired, I got a place in Canyon Creek, but in the winter there wasn't anything to do and one day when I came into the house, I sat down and started to shake and just couldn't stop it.



Charlie's garden.

In the spring we took a trip to Europe and over there I was getting worse. When I got home I went to work on a place I had bought before I left, and in no time I was alright again. So I have been doing a little every day to keep that way.



1978. Charlie Magnus' home in Canyon Creek.



Mr. Bradford, Matt Whitecotton.



Left to right: C.R. Field, Mrs. George Moore, Louise Field (Mrs. Krull), George Moore, Jean Moore (Quinn), Mrs. C.R. Field, Margaret Dewis, John Noortwyck, Noortwyck (unknown), Frank Dewis, Bill Boyd, Ronald Field, Herman Scott. January 1928.



Edward Nome beside his two daughters, Nellie and Racheal, along with his wife Harriet Nome.



June 9, 1939. Mrs. Jim (Clara) Grono, and Mrs. Andrew McKillop. These ladies walked to Edmonton in 1935.



Left to right: Art Leavington, Harvey Cline, Charlie Cline, Charlie Griffen, Martha Cline, Harold Leavington, Jim Grono, Sandy Landaker, Manuel Grono, Tom Grono. Christmas Day, 1927.



Log cabin in the Eula Creek area used by hunters in the early 1920's.



1921 — Mrs. Dora Stuck and Jim Harrison's Wedding. Dr. McKillop officiated.



Harry Hunt's regular threshing crew.
Left to right: Tom Bellrose, Willie Quintelle, Pat Deborn, Norman Hunt, George Hunt, Charlie Thunder, Sam Isadore.



Left to right, back row: Sylvia Sloan, Bertha Moody, Delta Sloan, Mrs. George Moore, Elsie Sloan, Esther Onstine, Mrs. Harrison, Marie Sloan.

Left to right, centre row: Mrs. Jesse Sloan, Mrs. Swanson, Helen Sloan (Greer), Irene Hunt, June Quinn (Fauque), Vivian Sloan, Leila Adams (Brown), Mrs. Gallagher holding Lloyd Adams.

Left to right, front row: Nellie Moody, Leo Sloan, Doris Sloan (Cuthbert), Jesse Sloan (Cauchie), Keith Onstine, Murray Onstine, Lawrence Sloan. April 7, 1941.



Paul Sowen, Pete Sowen, Mr. Courtorielle, Moise Sowen, standing Norbert Courtorielle, unknown.



Ball Games.

Left to right: Irene Lillo, Dojie Vanderaegen, Pauline Nickolson, Vera Whitecotton. Max Vanderaegen in front.



Left to right, back row: George Moore, Clarence Quinn, Jack Kelly. Left to right, centre row: Joe Wregget, Leila Adams, Florence Adams (Davignon), June Quinn (Fauque), Bob Adams, Ed Quinn, Lloyd Adams, Edna Quinn (Speakman).

Left to right, front row: Gerald Quinn, Ross Adams, James Quinn, Carol Adams (Specht), Steve Winters. 1952.



Left to right: Mike Prichuk, Mrs. Prichuk, Mary Miscow, Jack Miscow — 1914.



A group at Mrs. Curtis'.



Left to right: Mrs. J.C. Hunt, Aunt Clara Sloan, Mrs. Joe Ryder, Eva Hill, Glennie Hunt.



Threshing Crew at Sheldon's — 1948.

Left to right, back row: Fred Sheldon, Harry Adams, Harvey Schornack, Jack Kelly, Charlie Magnus.

Left to right, front row: Joe Tanghe, Fred Tanghe, Stan Olsen, George Sheldon, Earl Rutledge, Bert Strangeland.



Left to right: Pearl Leavitt, Eleanor Gallagher, Roberta Robinson, Beatrice Gallagher, Karen Sloan, Darlene Cuthbert. Farmers Day Parade in Swan Valley.



Left to right: Rueben Brown, Howard Posey, Tom Denison, Hercel Sloan, Ernest Sloan.



1940 — Mary (Beatty) Cuthbert, Edna Hadley, Carole Bannister, Mary McArthur.



1957 — A gathering to honor those that lived here for 50 years. Each were presented with a medallion attached to a pin making a lapel pin. Those receiving these were, left to right: Jesse Sloan, Finnie Hill, Mrs. Hill, Harry Hunt, and Wilfred Hunt.

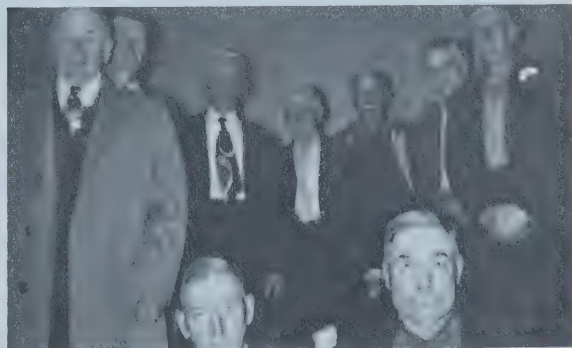


Blaine Hill's birthday — 1947.

Left to right: Edgar Hill, George Moore, Elmer Neilson, Grandpa Moger, Mae Moger (Hill), June Quinn, Ed Quinn holding Gerald, Leona Hill, Clarence Quinn, Blaine Hill, Edna Quinn (Speakman), Grandma Moger.



Left to right: Mrs. Martha Sloan, Grandma Swanson, Mrs. Harrison, Francis Bremmer, Mrs. Swanson, Albert Wetter, Mike McNamara with Earl Swanson, John Swanson. 1926.



Back, left to right: Windsor Rice, Martin Gallagher, Finny Hill, George Cornell, George Moore, Harry Walker, Jesse Sloan. Front, left to right: Harry Hunt, Howard Posey.



July 1st Picnic in 1915.



Back row: Duffel Sound, Ronald Courtorielle.
Front row: Joe Campiou, Julius Campiou, Mrs. Campiou and Fred Courtorielle.



The Martha Sloan family — March 1942.
Left to right: Roy Sloan, Sylvis and Ernest Sloan, Jesse and Nell Sloan, Charlie Sloan, Liz and John Swanson, Marie and Ray Sloan.



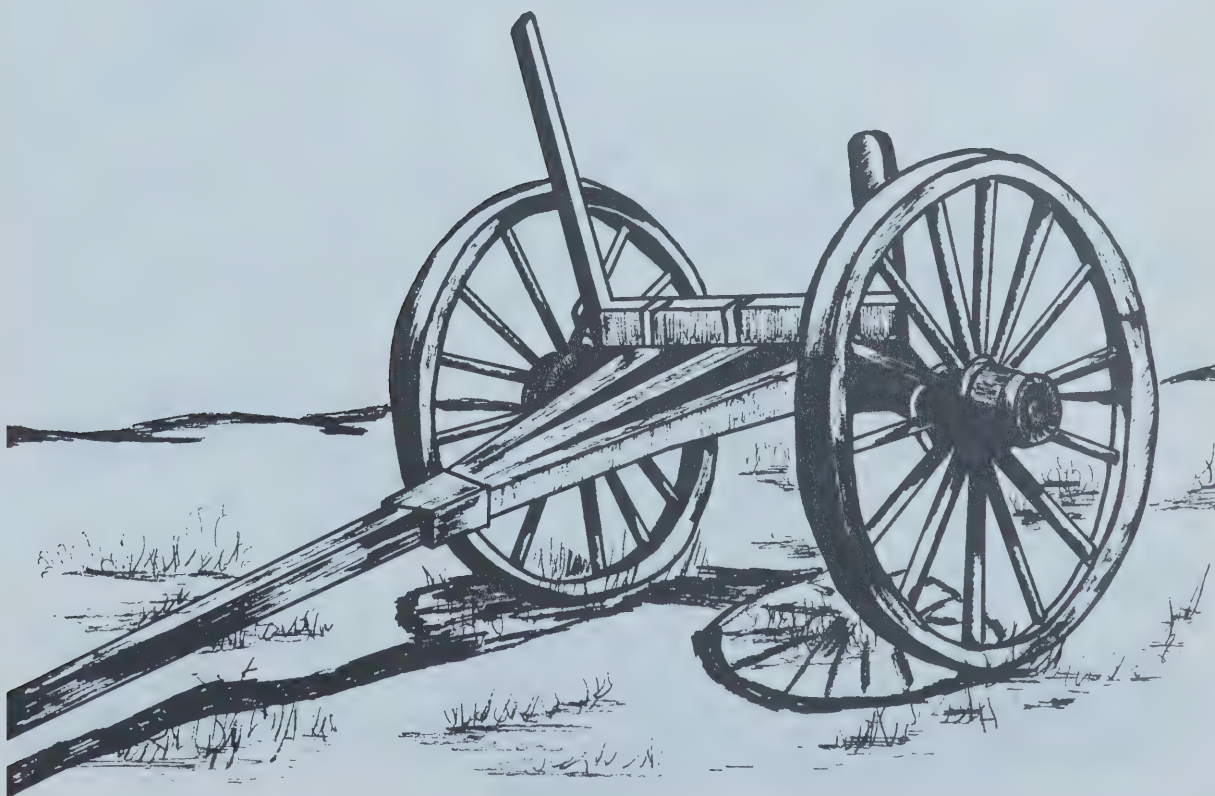
Left to right, top row: Mrs. Oscar Lillo, Peter Thomson, Mr. Ruth Lillo, Lilas Lillo (Sablick), June Quinn (Fauque), Clarence Quinn.
Left to right, bottom row: Gerald Quinn, Larry Lillo, and Edna Quinn (Speakman). 1947.

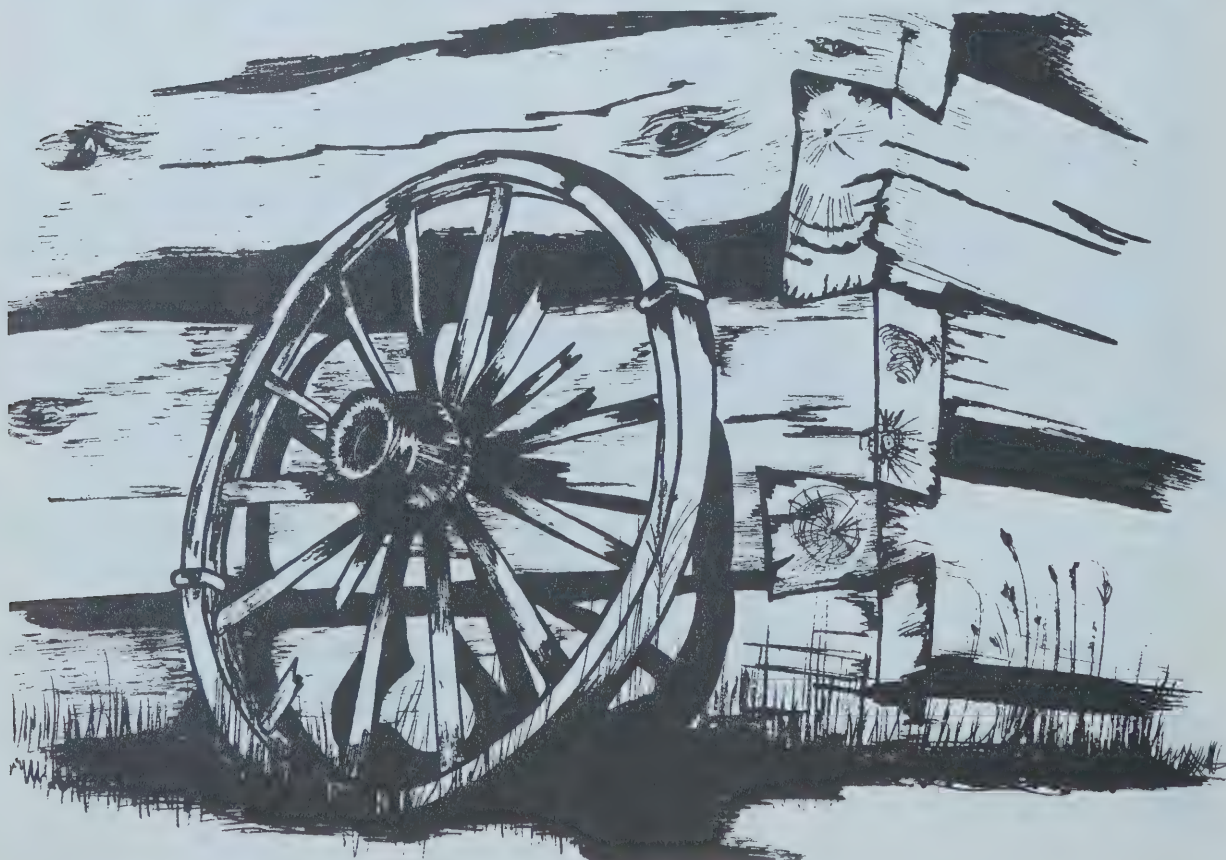
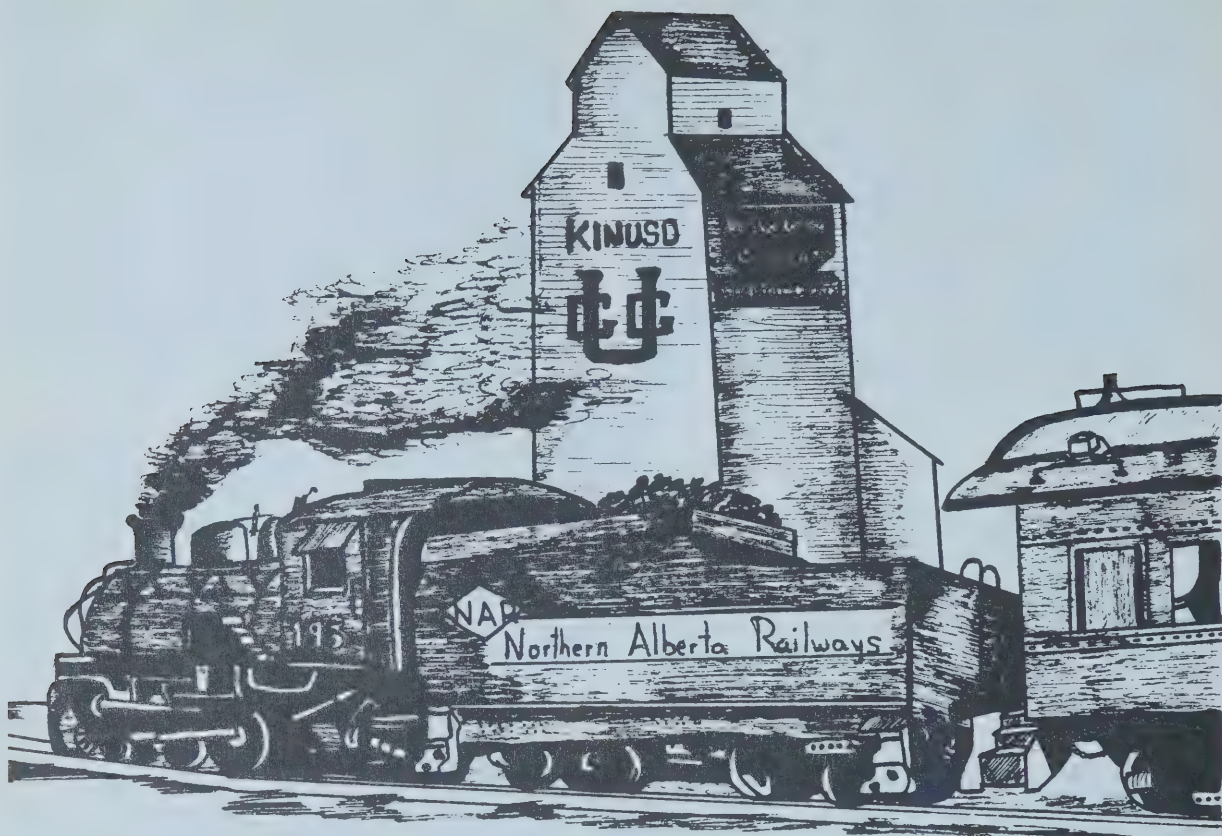


Van Der Mark family.
Left to right: Larry Dennis, Merle Van Der Mark, Chris Peterson, Bonnie Sloan, Hermie, Laura and Cindy Sloan.



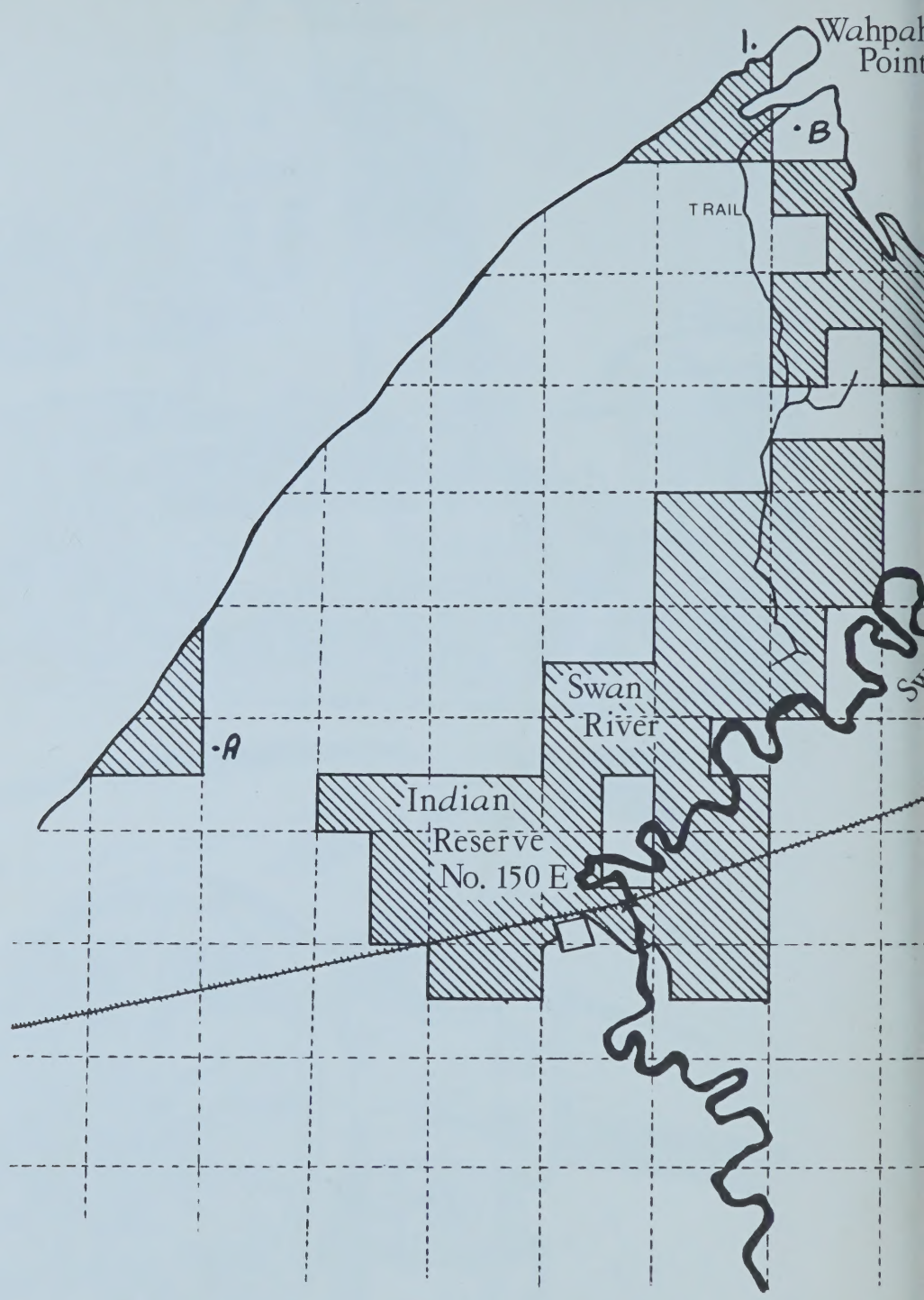
Farm house made out of hewed spruce logs. Axe work done by Manuel Grono.





Lesser

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- WAHPAH.....1. JULIUS COURTORIELLE
- SWAN RIVER POINT.....2. JEAN CHRETIEN CHALFOUX
3. MARIE CHALIFOUX
4. ALEXANDER GIROUX
- CAME LATER.....A. PAT COURTORIELLE

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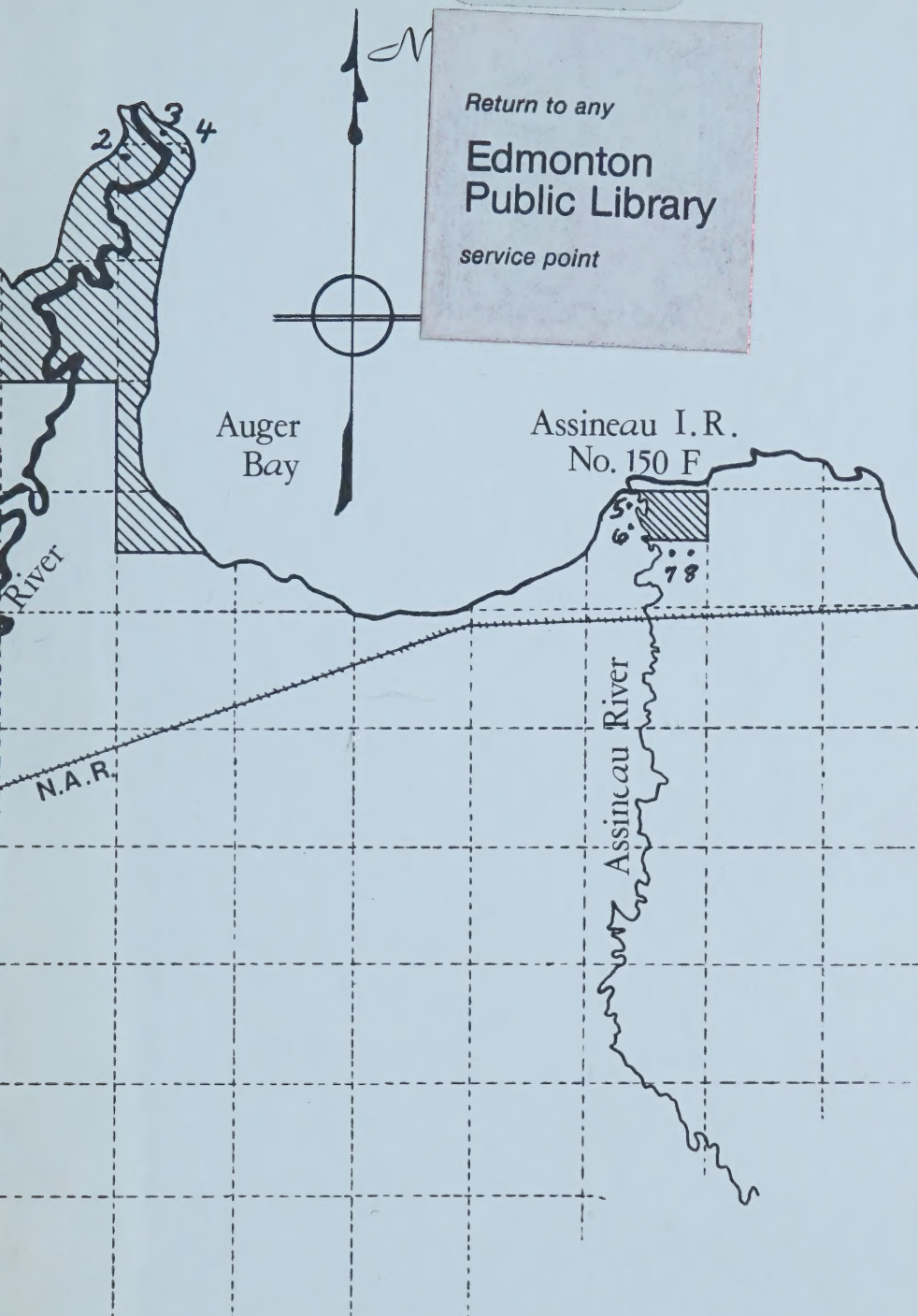
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6. SAMUAL SOUND

7. MITCHELL GIROUX

8. BENJAMIN GIROUX

B. EDWARD NOME

